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CONTENTS

Soviet Union

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INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Tikhonov Calls U.S. Euromissiles 'Nasty Gift' AA 1
[PRAVDA 2 Jan]

WORLD & REGIONAL ISSUES

'International Situation: Questions and Answers' CC 1
[Kachanov, Volskiy, Andrianov, Levin]
U.S. Statement on Gromyko-Shultz Meeting Examined CC 6
'Peace, Relaxation of Tension' Possible in 1984 CC 6
[Shishlin]
Questions on U.S. Missiles, Japan Answered CC 7
[Tsvetov]
USSR's UNESCO Envoy Derides U.S. Withdrawal Decision CC 8
More Khilchevskiy Comments CC 8
U.S. 1983 Voting Record in UN Assailed CC 9
[Vasilets]

UNITED STATES & CANADA

Arbatov on Relations With U.S., Arms Race A 1
[Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO 30 Dec]
NOVOSTI's Garbuzov on U.S. Plans for Far East A 3
[Sofia NARODNA ARMIYA 29 Dec]
Commentary Decries U.S. Military Expenditures A 4
[Soltan]
U.S. Urged To Reconsider UNESCO Withdrawal A 5
[Levin]
USIA Funding of 'Ultra-Right' U.S. Groups Hit A 6
[Knyazkov]
Official Advocates 'Balanced' U.S.-Soviet Trade A 7
[Tishenko]
Reagan Attempts To Justify Actions 'Futile' A 8
U.S. Facing 'Gloomy' Foreign, Domestic Prospects A 9
[Zholkver]
U.S. Deficit 'Hindrance' To Economic Recovery A 10
[Ablamov]

NORTHEAST ASIA

Reagan Notes 'Satisfaction' in Call to Nakasone C 1
[Logachev]
Nakasone Seeks To Resume 'Dialogue' With USSR C 1
Norodom Sihanouk Arrives in DPRK for Visit C 2
[IZVESTIYA 31 Dec]

SOUTH ASIA

U.S. 'Continuing Undeclared War' in Afghanistan [Editorial Article in PRAVDA 2 Jan] D 1
Dost: DRA Policy Based on Nonaligned Principles [SELSKAYA ZHIZN 30 Dec] D 4
DRA Spokesman Hits 'Adventurist' Reagan Policy D 5
Bangladesh Expulsion of Soviet Diplomats Analyzed [Korolev] D 7

SOUTHEAST ASIA & PACIFIC

SRV National Assembly Statement Detailed [IZVESTIYA 31 Dec] E 1
Official 'Full Independence' of Brunei Noted E 1

EASTERN EUROPE

Jaruzelski Speech to Voivodas Reported [PRAVDA 30 Dec] F 1
Ryabov, Romania's Pungan Confer on Economics [PRAVDA 30 Dec] F 1
Soviet Air Force Bomber Crash in GDR Reported [AFP] F 1
Bulgarian Brochure Cited on Antonov 'Crusade' F 2
Upcoming Visit of GDR's Fischer to USSR Reported F 2
Briefs: Czechoslovak Goods Protocol F 2

WESTERN EUROPE

U.S. Missile Deployment in W. Europe Condemned [Kharkov] G 1
Deployment in FRG Decried [Ostrogorskiy] G 1
UK, FRG Share 'Responsibility' G 2
Belgian Government Views Missile Deployment G 3
Siberia-W. Europe Gas Pipeline Operational [Ablamov] G 3
Italian CP Leader Assails Arms Race, Deployment G 4
Portuguese President Sees Difficulties in 1984 G 4
Koivisto Lauds USSR-Finnish Relations, Friendship G 5
CIA Attempts To Compromise Sweden's Palme Hit [Vukolov] G 5
FRG's Strauss Attacked for Remarks on Grenada [Aleksandrov] G 5
Council of Ministers Congratulates Turkey's Ozal [IZVESTIYA 27 Dec] C 6

MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

Tudeh Activists' Trial 'Slander' Against USSR [Vitalyev in PRAVDA 31 Dec] H 1
Soviet Accords With Syria, Uganda Ratified [IZVESTIYA 30 Dec] H 3
French Troops Transfer to UN Force in Lebanon H 3
Israeli Aircraft Bomb Lebanese Forces in Bhamdun H 3

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Military Coup in Nigeria Brings Buhari to Power J 1
Airport Closed J 1
Economic Reasons Cited J 1
[PRAVDA 2 Jan]
USSR, Benin Leaders Exchange Telegrams J 2
[PRAVDA 30 Dec]
Ryzhov Receives Cameroon Ambassador Dontsop J 2
[IZVESTIYA 24 Dec]

LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

Arkhipov Addresses Cuban Anniversary Meeting K 1
[PRAVDA 30 Dec]
Cuban Envoy Presents Credentials to Kuznetsov K 1
[PRAVDA 29 Dec]
Nicaragua Reports 'Fierce' Border Clashes K 2
U.S. Advisers Said 'Captured' in El Salvador K 2
'Repressions, Terror' Reported in Grenada K 3
[Kudryavskiy]

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

SUPREME SOVIET

Materials on 28-29 Dec Supreme Soviet Session P 1
'Information Report' P 1
[IZVESTIYA 30 Dec]
Maslov Delivers 'Coreport' P 2
[IZVESTIYA 30 Dec]
Maslennikov Delivers 'Coreport' P 9
[IZVESTIYA 30 Dec]
Baybakov Concluding Speech P 16
[IZVESTIYA 30 Dec]
Garbuzov Concluding Speech P 18
[IZVESTIYA 30 Dec]
Zhukov on Session's Foreign Policy Decision P 19

POLITICAL & SOCIAL DEVELOPMENTS

Government New Year Message to Soviet People R 1
[PRAVDA 1 Jan]
Kobysh Views State of Affairs at Year's End R 2
Central Committee Plenum Materials Published R 3
Armenian SSR Marks Anniversary of Soviet Rule R 3
[SOVETAKAN AYASTAN 30 Nov]
Demirchyan Addresses Armenian CP Plenum R 5
[Yerevan KOMMUNIST 21 Dec]
New Azerbaijani Ministerial Appointments Noted R 5
[BAKINSKIY RABOCHIY 2, 3 Dec]

SCIENTIFIC AFFAIRS

Odessa Satellite Station Begins Operation U 1
Chemists, Biologists Discuss Economic Role U 1
[PRAVDA 22 Dec]

MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS

Armed Forces Party Conferences Reported V 1
[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 24 Dec]

TIKHONOV CALLS U.S. EUROMISSILES 'NASTY GIFT'

PM030944 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 2 Jan 84 First Edition p 4

[Interview by Nikolay Tikhonov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Council of Ministers, given to a YOMIURI SHIMBUN correspondent entitled "N.A. Tikhonov's Answers to a YOMIURI Correspondent's Questions"; date and place of interview not given.]

[Text] Question: What could you say about the international situation after the beginning of deployment of new American medium-range missiles in Europe?

Answer: I think many readers of your newspaper will agree that it would be better for all if we started the new year without these missiles. They are, of course, a nasty "gift" to the Europeans, as well as to people elsewhere. As a result of the actions of the United States of America, the situation in the world has seriously deteriorated and tension has markedly increased. In his statement of November 24, 1983, Yu. V. Andropov, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, president of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, convincingly revealed the erroneousness and dangerousness of the policy of the present American Administration, a policy aimed at undermining the security of the Soviet Union, and showed who is really responsible for the breakdown of the Geneva talks. I can only underline that at the talks in Geneva the Soviet Union had gone as far as it could to find a really just and radical solution to the question of medium-range nuclear weapons.

It would be recalled that it was the Soviet Union that suggested destroying all nuclear weapons in Europe, both medium-range and tactical ones. But the USA did not even wish to talk about this.

With this taken into account we were seeking such a solution that would help keep the balance in nuclear medium-range weapons at the lowest possible level both in Europe and in Asia. The Soviet Union agreed, for instance, to have in the European zone considerably fewer medium-range missile and warheads on them than before 1976 when we had no SS-20 missiles because of which NATO allegedly took the decision to deploy new American missiles in Western Europe.

We also displayed readiness to stop deploying SS-20 missiles in the eastern regions of the USSR since the moment of signing a corresponding agreement with the USA, provided of course that no essential changes have taken place in the strategic situation in the Asian region.

Regrettably, the other side was guided by quite different, outrightly egoistic motives. The main thing for it is to attain military superiority by deploying the first-strike nuclear weapons in Europe. This is the reason why it torpedoed the Geneva talks.

In this connection, I cannot but mention the negative role played by the leadership of some other countries. Those who agreed, contrary to the will of their own peoples, to accept American missiles on their soil bear direct responsibility for the present deterioration of the international situation. And no small share of the blame rests also with those governments -- whether in Europe or Asia -- who by their position on the question of medium-range nuclear weapons contributed in this way or other to the start of a new dangerous spiral of the arms race.

The situation that has arisen now is not simple, indeed, but the Soviet leadership -- as was clearly stated by Yu.V. Andropov -- would not like to consider it irreversible.

We would like to hope that common sense would prevail and the situation that existed before the beginning of deployment of new American missiles would be restored, and this would open a possibility for finding a mutually acceptable solution. This would meet the aspirations of all people and their hopes for a peaceful calm life.

On the eve of the new year, the Soviet parliament, the Supreme Soviet of our country, solemnly declared that the Soviet Union does not encroach on the security of any country -- whether in the West or the East. It wants to live in peace with all countries and to translate into life the principle of peaceful coexistence of states with different social and political systems.

What are the prospects for the development of the international situation? This question could be answered by quoting a Japanese saying: "Tomorrow there will be tomorrow's wind blowing." True, Japanese often imply a somewhat fatalistic meaning in these words. We, Soviet people, are confident that it is only by their joint efforts that the peoples can determine today what tomorrow's wind and tomorrow in general will be like.

And it would also depend in many ways on the position of the Japanese side to make this wind a warm wind of detente and cooperation.

Question: How do you assess the present state of Soviet-Japanese relations?

Answer: I should like to put it this way: Soviet-Japanese relations are not in their best period now. Their development in recent years has slowed down, and the Soviet side cannot assume the responsibility for this. The principled line of the Soviet Union for establishing truly goodneighborly relations with Japan has not changed. But it is quite different how relations with our country began to be approached in Japan. The Japanese Government, not without glancing back at the other wide of the Pacific, has deliberately taken course toward, what I would say, dismantling the entire system of Soviet-Japanese relations created by the efforts of the two countries in the post-war period.

It imposed restrictions on political contacts, on the conclusion of new mutually beneficial contracts in the commercial and economic field, suspended the implementation of agreements on scientific and technical cooperation, and so on and so forth. What is more, these actions are accompanied by all kinds of campaigns unfriendly to our country and designed to arouse among the Japanese people distrust of the Soviet Union and its policy. On the other hand, efforts are being made to strengthen Japanese-American military alliance and to build up the armaments of Japan itself. It would be naive to think that all this remains unnoticed in the Soviet Union and is not taken into account.

I do not think that such a policy meets the national interests of Japan. The more so that the Soviet Union invariably shows a constructive approach to the development of relations with its Far Eastern neighbour. Mutually beneficial ties between the Soviet Union and Japan had been expanded for a long period of time, and this had brought considerable positive results. There were also some difficulties, of course, but the development of ties was not made dependent on these or other, often far-fetched, problems. It is hard to escape the impression today that the Japanese side is deliberately leading Soviet-Japanese relations into a deadlock.

But can such a policy promise Japan any benefits or advantages, say, in the fields of security or economic development? This is hard to imagine even if one has most fertile imagination.

The only reasonable way is to broaden and strengthen mutually beneficial ties in the spirit of goodneighbourliness. It is only along such lines that a quest is possible for ways to overcome the existing difficulties on such a basis as would be acceptable to both sides. It is important that the two sides should display, in the first place, goodwill and realism and take into consideration each other's interests and positions. The Soviet side is not lacking in readiness to do so.

People in the Soviet Union have great respect and sympathy for the people of Japan and sincerely want trust and goodneighbourliness to take the upper hand in our relations. The Soviet people have never had and do not have now any other wishes.

I take this occasion to convey, on behalf of the Soviet leadership and the people of our country, new year congratulations to all people of Japan and wish happiness, peace and prosperity to every Japanese family.

'INTERNATIONAL SITUATION: QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS'

LD302106 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1030 GMT 30 Dec 83

["International Situation -- Question and Answers" program presented by Yevgeniy Kachanov, All-Union Radio commentator on foreign affairs; with Dmitriy Antonovich Volskiy, NOVOYE VREMYA editorial board member; and Boris Vasilivevich Andrianov and Viktor Nikolayevich Levin, All-Union Radio commentators on foreign affairs.]

[Excerpts] [Kachanov] Mikhail Georgiyevich (Vostrokhin) of Volgograd asks: Is it possible that the leaders of the FRG, Britain, and France do not realize how great a threat the deployment of U.S. medium-range nuclear missiles poses for their countries? The same question is asked by Artur (Talasov), a pupil in the sixth class of Ordzhonikidze. One of our regular listeners, Aleksey Ivanovich (Zharikov) of the village of Novoibakskiy in Chelyabinsk Oblast, refers to this same missile problem and asks about prospects for the development of economic relations with those states that have agreed to make their territory available for U.S. missiles. Here to answer these questions is our commentator, Viktor Nikolayevich Levin:

[Levin] Let us begin with the first question, from Comrade (Vostrokhin]. The first thing that has to be said quite categorically is that Bonn, London and Rome bear equal responsibility with Washington for the arrival of U.S. Pershings and cruise missiles on the continent of Europe. The consent of these governments to the deployment of U.S. missiles is not just an act of Atlantic solidarity but participation in implementing plans that are highly dangerous to the cause of peace and European security. So on that point, only one opinion is possible.

But there is another question: Are the governments of the FRG, Britain, and Italy fully conscious of the degree of responsibility they have taken upon themselves by accepting the U.S. missiles? On the basis of official statements alone, the impression is that the decision was made without the slightest hesitation, almost enthusiastically they repeat the well-worn fabrications alleging that the deployment of U.S. medium-range missiles increases the security of Western Europe, and makes peace -- so they assert in Bonn, London, and Rome -- more dependable. Yet if we listen not only to the window-dressing official declarations but also to the admissions that occasionally escape the lips of high-ranking Western politicians, then we begin to doubt whether they are so soure about the correctness of the position they have adopted. After all, the claims that the nuclear missiles which are being deployed near the borders of the Soviet Union and its allies are intended for the defense of Western Europe do not stand up to serious criticism. Nobody is threatening Western Europe. On the other hand, the deployment of U.S. missiles on European soil does increase the real danger that the United States will bring disaster upon the peoples of Europe.

Do the governments of the FRG, Britain, and Italy realize this? They do not answer that question aloud, but it seems to me that they cannot fail to realize it. The fact that now, when the deployment of the U.S. missiles has already begun and the Geneva talks have been broken off as a result of the militarist actions of the United States and of the NATO bloc as a whole, they are still more strenuously claiming in Western Europe that nothing terrible has happened and that the talks will be resumed any day now. This gives us reason to conclude that the inordinately zealous partners of the United States feel very uncomfortable. I think that as time goes on, that feeling will increase.

Along with the USSR's clear and precise position, the extraordinary extent of the anti-missile movement is playing a very appreciable role in forcing the governments of the West European countries to maneuver. As we review the year that has passed, on the threshold of the new, I would say that this anti-war movement has been one of the most important results for Europe.

Yes, as a result of the deployment of U.S. missiles, the situation in Europe has a seriously worsened. But whatever has happened, the antimissile movement has not only not declined but continues to gain strength.

By the way, Comrade Antofyev of Leningrad feels that this movement will not do any good unless it is clearly organized into a single peace party. Good organization is certainly very important, but this year the antiwar movement has every reason to credit itself with some quite considerable successes. One main reason is the fact that the hopes of the imperialist circles -- that once the deployment of U.S. missiles had begun, the antiwar movement would collapse -- have been dashed. No, that has not happened. Moreover, the struggle against the U.S. missiles is gathering strength. This is a very, very important factor giving grounds for optimism.

[Kachanov] Viktor Nikolayevich, what about economic relations, the question asked by Comrade Zharikov?

[Levin] Yes, I remember that question. There is no disputing that the deployment of U.S. missiles will negatively, effect all aspects of relations of the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries with the FRG, Britain, and Italy. But in no way do we advocate a worsening of those relations. Everything that can help to normalize the situation, including economic relations, has our active support. Given goodwill on the part of the of Western Europe, we will not stand in the way. In general, if the West Europeans pursue a more active foreign policy, Europe as a whole will feel much more confident.

Incidentally, the West German Social Democrats are firmly convinced that if Chancellor Kohl's government were to be a little more vigorous in defending the interests of the FRG, its influence on the U.S. position at the Geneva talks could be more fruitful. Naturally, this conclusion applies not only to the Geneva talks.

By and large, then, the situation in Europe as a whole is a difficult one. As is noted in the decree of the CPSU Central Committee Plenum, in an international situation that has deteriorated sharply through the fault of the imperialist circles, strict fulfillment of plan quotas, and conscientious, highly-productive labor are not only obligatory but the patriotic duty of every labor collective and every Soviet person. That labor is the reliable foundation of the defense capability and security of the Soviet Union.

[Kachanov] There are a lot of questions in our mail about the situation in the Near East, particularly Lebanon. We have had letters on this subject from [name indistinct] of Dnepropetrovsk Oblast, war and labor veteran (Petr Timofeyevich Kanonenko) of Kharkov Oblast, Comrade (Minkin) of Dubna in Moscow Oblast, and others. To analyze the situation in that part of the world and give us a review of the year, here is Dmitriy Antonovich Volskiy, a member of the editorial board of the journal NOVOYE VREMYA. Come closer to the microphone, please.

[Volskiy] The situation in the Near East at present is like a house that has been set on first from all sides. For many years now, the coals have been smouldering and flaring up, and the Near East has remained one of the most dangerous hot spots in the world. The main cause is well known: the expansionist policy of the State of Israel which, with the support of the United States, is trying to become the dominating force in the Near East and to gain control over the Arab peoples living in the region. In pursuit of this aim, Israel has repeatedly attacked its Arab neighbors, seizing one piece of their territory after another. The latest example is the incursion into Lebanon, the southern part of which is still occupied by the Israeli Army and is being turned into a bridgehead for new acts of aggression. This continuing Israeli aggression is the oil that is being poured onto the rafters of the Near East house; poured not accidently or negligently, but intentionally and deliberately, with very definite aims.

This is being done by none other than the United States, or rather the Reagan administration on which the Israeli chauvinists rely.

[Kachanov] But this has happened before, Dmitriy Antonovich. As far as I know, Washington has always supported Israel.

[Volskiy] Yes, that is right. The support has always been there. But this year, it entered a qualitatively new phase and took on the character of a direct military alliance. The signing, some time ago, of an agreement on strategic interaction between the United States and Israel has, at the end of the departing year, 1983, assumed concrete forms. The visit a month ago to Washington by Israeli Prime Minister Shamir and Defense Minister Arens, who recently replaced Begin and Sharon in those posts, and their talks there, led to official, and, at the same time, practical measures. These have been primarily the formation of U.S.-Israeli military-political committee. What will it do? It will plan joint maneuvers, establish arms and ammunition depots on Israeli territory for the U.S. Rapid Deployment Force, and organize bases for ships of the U.S. 6th Fleet on Israel's Mediterranean coast. All this, taken together, makes Tel Aviv a direct participant in the crusade against the forces of progress and national liberation that has been proclaimed by the Reagan administration.

It is significant that now, the Israeli Government is not only trying to draw Washington deeper into its anti-Arab adventures but the opposite can also be seen. The Reagan administration is inciting Israel to expand its aggressive actions, particularly in Lebanon. The Israeli Army is being called upon by its American ally to become more actively involved in the attempts to crush the Lebanese national patriotic forces.

But that is only one side of it. There is another side which is no less dangerous and possibly more so. This is the ever-widening involvement of the United States itself -- its fleets and troops -- in the Near East conflict. Listeners will know about the U.S. shelling from the sea and aerial attacks on the positions of the national patriotic forces of Lebanon and of the Syrian troops repeated reports that the U.S. Marines who are in Lebanon as part of the so-called multinational NATO force have also been joining in the fighting. I would only like to add that this contingent of U.S. Marines, numbering 1,600, is no ordinary military unit but the advance guard of that same Rapid Deployment Force that has been specially set up for operations in the Near East and other parts of the developing world. The advance guard units in Lebanon are, indeed, preparing for a possible landing of large contingents of the Rapid Deployment Force if Washington ventures to intervene extensively in the Near East. That is where the depots of military equipment I mentioned earlier would come in -- those that are to be set up nearby, in Israel.

The question arises of whether there is a real danger of such an intervention. Already, the involvement of the Reagan administration in the military operations in Lebanon is arousing disapproval and apprehension among many Americans. But the militarists in Washington are clearly champing at the bit. First, they want to gain for themselves military control of the oil resources of the Near and Middle East. There are whole scenarios for the occupation of the oil-rich countries, drawn up long ago; they include the countries of the Persian Gulf. Second, and this is especially dangerous, the Pentagon regards the whole vast region of the Near and Middle East as a network of bridgeheads aimed against the Soviet Union and the socialist community -- and even as a potential theater of war second in importance only to Europe. It is clear in view of this that the U.S.-Israeli aggressive actions are fraught with a threat to peace not only in that region itself, but also on a wider scale.

[Kachanov] A letter has reached us from Blagoveshchensk by Sergey Mikhaylovich Abramov. He sharply condemns the United States' aggressive course and at the same time asks for an explanation as to what the Reagan administration is calculating upon by stepping up, in particular, its intrigues in the region of the Far East. Our commentator Boris Vasilyevich Andrianov will answer you, Sergey Mikhaylovich.

[Andrianov] Comrade Abramov has, of course, posed quite a difficult question. For, indeed, what do the Washington politicians need in the Far East which is over 1,000 km across the Pacific Ocean from the United States' western borders?

I suggest that an answer to this should be sought in Washington itself. But they wouldn't dare to tell the truth there. Nevertheless, there is something to be said in their favor. For example, a month or two ago, prior to Reagan's trip to the Far East, a Washington official statement said that this trip by the head of the White House is to reaffirm the importance which that region has for the United States. But in what way it is important for the Americans and for what purposes, no explanations were given.

It is not hard to understand that, if the intentions were good ones and the objectives noble, then there would be no reason to hide them. Surely noble aspirations don't need dark secrets? However, those who run the U.S. military have been known to blab out what the politicians in Washington at time keep silent about. The reason probably is their custom of looking not only at individual parts of the world but also at whole continents through the prism of their militaristic designs, seeing the meridians and parallels on the map of the world merely as a network of coordinates on the global map of the aggressive plans of the strategists across the ocean. It is not by chance, by the way, that Europe is seen there as a theater of combat operations. That is why they see the Far East as one of the main arenas of a military-political confrontation with the Soviet Union and the other socialist states, as well as the developing countries of Asia. Very convincing proof that this is the case was seen by the infamous provocation with the South Korean aircraft which was arranged by Washington about 4 months ago.

[Kachanov] In these plans of Washington's connected with the Far East region is clearly reflected the United States' so-called global approach to the problem of medium-range missiles, since it envisages the deployment of such armaments on the Soviet Union's western and eastern borders.

[Andrianov] Yes, these aggressive militaristic ambitions are becoming increasingly obvious, and yet another new emphasis -- that on Asia -- is becoming evident in Washington's foreign policy course. There, as on the European Continent in the beginning, Reagan's team intends to achieve a tangible military-strategic superiority for the United States. Masking their true aspirations with demagogy about concern for peace, the White House has set itself the objective of tipping the balance of military forces in the West's favor not only in Europe but in Asia as well, primarily in the Far East. To achieve this goal, the Reagan administration is obviously counting on bringing the bases of the U.S. tactical and strategic nuclear forces closer to Soviet borders, that is, to deploy them on the territory of Japan and in the south of the Korean peninsula.

Behind these calculations is hidden the Pentagon's fully determined plan to reduce the time nuclear missiles take to reach their targets in this way and thus to increase the possibility of inflicting a first strike. Reagan, of course, did not publicly reveal these plans during his Far East trip. The more so, since during the trip the White House boss held talks behind closed doors, in an atmosphere of particular secrecy. However, the United States secret intentions have become well known. None other than U.S. Secretary of State Shultz, on the eve of Reagan's trip, hinted quite openly that the question of medium-range nuclear missiles in Asia and in the Far East in particular, would be discussed in detail at the Tokyo talks.

Here, the U.S. State Department Chief chould have been reproached with anything you like, only not with failing to give notice of his plans for Shultz accompanied the U.S. President on this trip and was well-informed about the whole program of talks. True, in Tokyo they prefer -- for fully understandable reasons -- to keep silent about what they specifically agreed with Reagan, and the U.S. military does not think it necessary to fear anything and openly calls Japan one of the most suitable candidates for the deployment of the U.S. cruise missiles.

[Kachanov] But Boris Vasiliyevich, statements like these are by no means unfounded. The Japanese Prime Minister Nakasone himself has provided grounds for them. It was precisely he, while on a visit to Washington in January this year, who assured Reagan of his readiness to turn the Japanese archipelago into an unsinkable aircraft-carrier.

[Andrianov] Such a promise by the head of the government of Japanese conservatives turned out in effect to be an open proclamation of Tokyo's militaristic foreign policy. This course has been expressed in the numerous military commitments which the Japanese Government has made to Washington: to increase military allocations, to build up the capacity of its armed forces, to step up the arms race and to be a more active part of the U.S. global strategy which is directed toward confrontation with the Soviet Union. Nakasone reaffirmed all these commitments during his talks with Reagan last month, and the humiliating nature of the Japanese Prime Minister's behavior gave the Reagan administration cause to set up a special command for surveillance over Japan, headed by U.S. Vice President Bush, whose task was to closely observe how Japan fulfulls its commitments.

Indeed, Washington had placed its stakes on spreading the arms race to the Far East region, thus creating another hotbed of tension in the world. In doing so, the strategists from across the ocean are pursuing insidious objectives. By deploying mass destruction weapons on its Asian bases, in particular Japan, the United States is calculating on ensuring greater chances for surviving a nuclear war, for which they set great hopes on a crusade against the forces of socialism, peace and progress.

In the White House, they are obviously hoping to ward off a retaliatory strike on U.S. territory, substituting for this its Asian allies, which are now being turned -- like the countries of Western Europe -- into hostages of the Reagan Administration's senseless nuclear strategy. The real danger of such an outcome is being realized more clearly by sober-minded circles of the Japanese public.

This is testified to not only by the antimilitaristic movement on the Japanese islands which is growing in strength. The results of the recent parliamentary elections in Japan vividly confirmed this. Even in the West they have been seen as a crushing defeat for the Liberal Democratic Party, which is represented in power by the Nakasone government. By voting against the Liberal Democrat candidates, the electorate clearly rejected Nakasone's plans to turn Japan into an unsinkable aircraft-carrier following the wake of the United States' global military adventures. A vote of no confidence in the line of Nakasone, who was proclaimed Prime Minister of Japan this January, was expressed in this way.

True, the Liberal Democrats and Nakasone himself, as a result of unprincipled maneuvering behind the political scenes, just managed to stay in power. However, the results of the elections in Japan taught a lesson not only to the rulers in Japan. The defeat of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party in Japan serves as a serious warning to those politicians in Western Europe who, having ignored the will of the majority of the population in their countries, agreed to deploy the new U.S. first-strike missiles.

Of course, it is a warning to those people in the United States who believe that it is possible to ignore the will of the peoples for peace and to thoughtlessly continue to unwind the flywheel of the arms race.

[Kachanov] Thank you, Boris Vasiliyevich.

U.S. STATEMENT ON GROMYKO-SHULTZ MEETING EXAMINED

LD311739 Moscow TASS Service in English 1731 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Text] Moscow December 31 TASS -- Playing on the natural hopes of people for a better future in the coming year, the American official circles are spreading optimistic statements, apparently designed to create an impression that despite the deployment of Pershing II and cruise missiles in Europe, which is an extremely dangerous step against the cause of peace, things are going as if nothing has happened. Thus on the eve of 1984 the U.S. State Department made a publicity statement about the forthcoming meeting in Stockholm between the USSR Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko and U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz. A spokesman for the U.S. State Department told a press conference that Washington yet hoped for the return of the Russians to the negotiating table. In its turn, the CBS television company reported that high-ranking United States officials hoped that the meeting would discuss disarmament control problems.

It goes without saying that neither the Stockholm conference nor bilateral contacts can substitute for the Geneva talks, which were disrupted through the fault of the American Administration. The latter did not wish from the very outset the attainment of a mutually acceptable agreement on nuclear weapons in Europe and used these talks as a cover for the actions of the USA and a number of other NATO countries aimed at undermining European and international security.

The formula for ending the deadlock created through the fault of the American side has been once again reaffirmed in the decision of the USSR Supreme Soviet. "Should the USA and the other NATO countries show readiness to return to the situation, which existed prior to the start of deployment of American medium-range missiles in Europe, the Soviet Union will also be ready to do so," the USSR Supreme Soviet stressed.

So far there have been no manifestations of such a readiness from the NATO member countries. Moreover, it has been announced that in the new year's night [31 December-1 January] the new American nuclear missiles in the FRG and Britain will be placed in a state of combat readiness, which will turn Western Europe into Washington's nuclear hostage.

It is noteworthy that the agenda of the first stage of the Stockholm conference provides for examining only confidence building measures. In other words, they in Washington are speaking about what does not exist in reality. All of this talk on the eve of the meeting at the Stockholm conference is clearly designed to instill complacency in the public of Western Europe and of the USA.

'PEACE, RELAXATION OF TENSION' POSSIBLE IN 1984

LD311936 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1600 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Text] The Czechoslovak newspaper RUDE PRAVO states that the decision on the international situation and Soviet foreign policy adopted by the USSR Supreme Soviet is imbued with the firm conviction that reason can and should protect mankind from a nuclear catastrophe. Here is the latest news commentary, with political observer Nikolay Shishlin:

[Shishlin] On the threshold of a new year, it is customary to evaluate the results of the outgoing year and to glance at the approaching year. As far as the results of 1983 are concerned, clearly the international situation has seriously worsened. It is noted for a serious growth in tension and there are more than enough grounds for this conclusion. The U.S. policy of spiralling the arms race, crude interference in other states' internal affairs, and Washington's current confrontation policy have all left a negative imprint on the entire military-political situation in the world. But it would not be correct to just view this negative aspect, because the results of 1983 also contain the important fact that the United States and its partners have not succeeded in shaking the military-strategic parity between the United States and the Soviet Union, between the NATO bloc and the Warsaw Pact.

The results of 1983 also include the successful development of the Soviet Union and other socialist states, which was eloquently confirmed by the recent CPSU Central Committee plenum and the results of the USSR Supreme Soviet session. Of course, the upsurge in the antiwar antimissile movement, which has become very widespread in many European countries has become a notable feature of 1983. It is also gathering force in the United States and Japan.

These results of 1983 give full validity to hopes that peace will be consolidated and the world political climate improved. I am certainly not going so far as to state that the international situation will change for the better in one day, nevertheless, I believe it is very symbolic that the first month of the approaching year will be noted for the start of work at the Stockholm conference on measures for trust and disarmament in Europe. Certainly, the coming year will not be easy, but I think that in this approaching complex year, we will be able to make a move forward toward relaxing tension, consolidating international security, and smoothing out international relations.

QUESTIONS ON U.S. MISSILES, JAPAN ANSWERED

LD311239 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0900 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Vladimir Yakovlevich Tsvetov, Central Television and All-Union Radio observer, answering listeners' questions]

[Excerpt] Comrade Kozlova from the village of (?Doyno) in Moldavian SSR, Vera Nikolayevna Teterina from Pskov, Nadezhda Mikhaylovna Krasikova from the Tartu area of Estonian SSR, and Comrade Kushnareva from the village of (Priyutnyy) in Kazakh SSR, express anxiety over the deployment of U.S. nuclear missiles in Western Europe, which is in the direct vicinity of Soviet borders. The listeners ask: How can those who want to deliver the first blow to the Soviet Union be stopped?

I would like to remind listeners of the press conference for Soviet and foreign journalists devoted to the question of the deployment of U.S. medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe. At this press conference, Marshal of the Soviet Union, chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces, and USSR First Deputy Minister of Defense Ogarkov said that in response to the deployment of U.S. missiles, the USSR is taking retaliatory measures corresponding exactly to those which the United States has implemented. That is, the Soviet Union is deploying missiles in ocean regions and seas which, in their range to U.S. territory, the power of their nuclear charge, their accuracy in hitting the target, and -- what is particularly important -- their flight time to the target, absolutely correspond to the U.S. nuclear means being deployed in Western Europe. This way, an aggressor contemplating a nuclear strike against the USSR would carefully think about the consequences of his plans and, having thought, conclude that by making the attack he dooms himself to inescapable retribution.

Yakou Tikhonovich (Makarov) from the village of (?Krivozerye) in Penza Oblast asks why Japanese Prime Minister Nakasone repeatedly makes groundless territorial claims against the Soviet Union.

The Japanese ruling circles, which have entered into a military-political alliance with the United States, do not need the so-called northern territories -- as the southern part of Kuril Archipelago is called in Japan -- in and of themselves. They require the question of northern territories. Falsely accusing the USSR of seizing these territories -- Japan relinquished them during the postwar peace regulation -- the Japanese Government rouses chauvinism and nationalism, the most nourishing environment for thriving militarism in the country. The Japanese Government uses the territorial problem to accuse the Soviet Union of aggressiveness and to justify the arms race, which is allegedly necessary to counter this obviously nonexistent aggressiveness.

Here I will end the review of your letters. All the best to you. Until we meet in the new year.

USSR'S UNESCO ENVOY DERIDES U.S. WITHDRAWAL DECISION

LD311942 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1600 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Text] The U.S. decision to leave UNESCO -- the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization -- is being discussed animatedly in both the French press and in other circles inside UNESCO itself. In connection with this, our correspondent in Paris, Pavel Kasparov, asked the USSR's permanent representative at UNESCO, Comrade Khilchevskiy, to share his views on the motives and aims of this decision by the United States:

[Begin Khilchevskiy recording] For many years now the U.S. Administration has been using the most varied ways and methods to make UNESCO give up constructive directions in its activity. It is not by chance that in the claims made by U.S. delegates at a whole series of conferences and meetings, the U.S. delegation has been persistently pursuing the idea that UNESCO cannot, should not, and is obliged not to engage in questions concerning mutual understanding and strengthening cooperation between peoples, questions concerning educating mankind in a spirit of struggle against nuclear weapons, questions concerned with support for national liberation movements, and a number of other problems and directions that are clearly not to the liking of the present Washington leaders. I think that the system of the United Nations, the system of international cooperation within the framework of international organizations, has confirmed its vital importance, its effectiveness, and I think that whatever attempts are undertaken by any state -- in this case the United States -- these attempts will be doomed to failure by life itself. [end recording]

More Khilchevskiy Comments

LD301800 Moscow TASS in English 1722 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Text] Paris December 30 TASS -- The U.S. decision to quit UNESCO is an inadmissible act of blackmail with respect to this major international organization. The act is designed to undermine the world's entire system of international cooperation and mutilateral diplomacy as it exists today. It is spearheaded above all against the U.N. and its agencies of which UNESCO is one. This was said by the USSR permanent representative with UNESCO Yuriy Khilchevskiy in an interview with Soviet journalists here today.

The USA is also aiming its blow against the developing countries, the Soviet representative said. In Washington they make statements implying that they disagree with international issues being resolved through the free expression of will by states according to the "one country - one vote" principle.

The U.S. Administration goes by a different principle, one that says that "the one who pays the money orders the music".

It is quite clear, Yuriy Khilchevskiy further said, that by taking this decision the U.S. President counts on boosting his prestige with the U.S. electorate. This step, however, is by far not conducive to enhancing the U.S. prestige in the world community of nations.

U.S. 1983 VOTING RECORD IN UN ASSAILED

LD311048 Moscow TASS in English 1007 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Text] New York December 31 TASS -- TASS correspondent V. Vasilets reports:

The Middle East, southern Africa and Central America were the worst "flashpoints" of the world in 1983 as a result of the subversive actions and direct armed intervention of the United States. This is evidenced by the results of the proceedings of the U.N. Security Council, the main organ of that international organisation concerned with maintaining peace.

According to the U.N. Secretariat, two-thirds of all the Council meetings in 1983 discussed the situation in those regions. For instance, the Security Council held 21 meetings on the Namibian problem, in the course of which Washington and Pretoria, acting in concert, blocked the U.N. plan for granting independence to that territory, occupied by the South African racists' troops.

Encouraged by the White House, the apartheid regime is escalating acts of terrorism against neighbouring African states. In 1983 five meetings of the Council were devoted to South Africa's aggression against Angola. However, because of Washinton's obstructionist stand the Council failed to take decisions binding Pretoria to respect the principles of international law.

The year 1983 saw the dramatic intensification of the U.S. attacks on the rights of the Arab peoples. U.S. armed intervention in Lebanon gravely worsened the situation in the entire region. Small wonder that 25 meetings of the Council dealt with different aspects of the Mideastern problem and with the U.S. armed acts of provocation against Libya.

One of the central problems with which the Security Council concerned itself was the aggravation of the situation in Central America. Altogether, 19 meetings were devoted to this. In particular, Council members strongly denounced Washinton's flagrant aggression against Grenada. To prevent a sharply-worded anti-American resolution from being adopted, the United States, which found itself in complete isolation, had to use its right of veto.

Throughout the year, the Council had to concern itself every now and then with the CIA's subversive activities against Nicaragua. However, Washington continues cynically to flaunt all the U.N. resolutions and to escalate its undeclared war against the Nicaraguan people.

ARBATOV ON RELATIONS WITH U.S., ARMS RACE

AU021620 Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO in Bulgarian 30 Dec 83 p 5

[Interview given by Georgiy Arbatov, CPSU Central Committee member and director of the United States of America and Canada Institute at the USSR Academy of Sciences, to Atanas Atanasov, RABOTNICHESKO DELO correspondent in Moscow; "In December" in Moscow]

[Excerpt] Question: Today the world has changed. The USSR has deprived the United States of its military superiority, and national liberation movements have appeared, which have put a question mark over the U.S. hegemony....

Answer: This was interpreted precisely as an attempt against "legitimate" U.S. interests. The emotions developed by this attitude and the policy of threats and aggression based on them can be understood but naturally by no means justified. Yet official U.S. propaganda is trying to convince U.S. citizens that the changes have taken place not so much in the world as in the United States -- in other words, the power and determination to defend national interests has decreased. After many people have been convinced of this it is not difficult to kindle a military hysteria. We must add that this militant attitude of the influential circles is supported by solid material interests.

Question: You mean the military-industrial complex?

Answer: Not only this complex, although its influence over the U.S. policy is great. I mean other organizations and mechanisms created for servicing the cold war, for conducting psychological war, for secret operations, and for other similar dark goals. All those mechanisms are meant to survive and continue their activity, and for this they need international tension. This issue has a foreign policy aspect. The U.S. anti-Sovietism and anticommunism are as wild as they were during the most difficult periods of our history. Their attempts to destroy us or at least to change us according to their image still exist.

Question: In fact, what changes are the means and not the goals.

Answer: I would not make such a categorical conclusion. Of course, the class goals of U.S. imperialism remain the same. However, in the nuclear age, even if we take into consideration the most important thing -- the striving toward self-protection -- there appear (of course, among the soberly thinking and wise representatives of the ruling class), new goals and interests, some of them even common with those of the USSR. For example -- to prevent nuclear war and stop the dangerous and wasteful arms race. The trouble (also for the U.S. public) is that now the United States is led by extremists who ignore the realities of the nuclear age. This fact affects their adventurist policy.

Question: How, more concretely?

Answer: First of all in the attempts to pressure us in all areas. The U.S. leaders also consider the arms race as an important means of achieving military superiority, and as a means of economic "attrition." These are not empty words. One of the main arguments of the U.S. military during the congressional debates on the B-1 bombers and cruise missiles was that these weapon systems can harm the USSR economy by forcing the USSR to create a new and expensive anti-aircraft system. Reagan's "directives in the area of defense for 1984-1988" define one of the main goals of the program for U.S. rearmament in the following manner: "First of all to depreciate the USSR capital investments" in the area of defense.

Question: And all this despite some positive changes in the 1970's?

Answer: The United States is now ruled by circles which view the detente of the 1970's as a temporary pause between periods of tension. Their positions are permeated by the well-known dogmatic anti-Sovietism. The U.S. forces interested in reviving the "cold war" are rather strong. They include the military-industrial complex, radical rightist politicians, a part of multinational business, and some regional groups of the U.S. bourgeoisie. Really, the Pershing II and cruise missiles and the laser weapons are not only nuclear first-strike weapons, but also profitable merchandise. To be able to market them, one needs an atmosphere of fear and threats. Of course, the most tested manner of scaring the public is to scream "the Russians are coming."

Question: In this atmosphere it would not be difficult for the United States to impose on its allies in NATO the sinister decision to deploy medium-range nuclear weapons in Western Europe, and afterwards to torpedo the Geneva talks. How would you evaluate the international situation at the end of 1983 in the context of these facts?

Answer: It is well known that because of the militarist course of the U.S. Administration, the international situation continues to deteriorate. As Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov accurately expressed himself: "In the name of achieving their imperialist goals, they act in such a far-fetched manner that we cannot but suspect that there are no brakes in Washington to prevent the thinking man from crossing the border." However our nerves are strong. The USSR has achieved military-strategic parity and we shall not allow the United States to violate it. One must stress that the steady USSR course remains as it was -- detente, limiting the arms race, and expanding and strengthening cooperation among different countries and peoples.

Question: Now the West, and first of all the United States, is trying to pose as a peacelover, maintaining that it is ready to continue the negotiations with the USSR on medium-range nuclear means, which you see were abandoned by the USSR....

Answer: Yes, the present U.S. Administration is characterized by its weakness for false propaganda. Often it replaces policy. In fact it is not the USSR that abandoned the negotiations, but the United States deprived them of any essence by beginning to deploy new missiles. Indeed, the negotiations were conducted in order to avoid this deployment and the subsequent new round of the arms race in Europe and the entire world. However, from the very beginning, the United States did not want these negotiations. Reagan's administration left them for almost 1 year and returned only under the pressure of its allies and the public, and furthermore, they did not want any agreement. Their aim is to intensify the arms race and achieve military superiority. After all this, what place is left in the framework of this policy for limiting and reducing arms? I think that the present leader of the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency was fully sincere when he declared several years ago: "The disarmament talks are just a trick that we must use to pacify our allies and the U.S. public."

Question: Last question -- How do you see the future development of USSR-U.S. relations?

Answer: I already said that we have already strived and are striving to improve them. Whether they will develop in this area depends on the U.S. side. The will of one side is enough to quarrel. However, in order to construct normal relations, the efforts of both sides are needed. Therefore USSR-U.S. relations will depend to a large degree on U.S. policy toward the USSR. It will be good to the extent that it will not be bad (not only for the USSR but also for the United States and even its allies). It will depend on the economic and political reality, the policy of other countries, the good sense of the Americans, and the peoples' striving for self-protection.

I hope that these facts will be sufficient to strengthen the realistic element in U.S. policy. This this policy will be able to understand and incorporate not only the contradictions existing between our countries, but also our vitally important common interests.

NOVOSTI'S GARBUZOV ON U.S. PLANS FOR FAR EAST

AU311633 Sofia NARODNA ARMIYA in Bulgarian 29 Dec 83 p 3

[Article by NOVOSTI correspondent Igor Garbuzov, "Written Especially for NARODNA ARMIYA,": "NATO Far Eastern Branch" -- passages in uppercase appear in boldface]

[Text] The present situation in the Far East and in the regions of the Pacific is characterized by an intensified diplomatic and military activity of the United States that is aimed at strengthening its strategic positions in this region. Having decided to achieve military superiority over the Soviet Union at any price, the United States is doing everything possible to make the countries of the Far East, Southeast Asia, as well as West Europe, become a site of nuclear aggression.

In order to achieve its aggressive plans, the Pentagon has concentrated large armed forces in this region -- the largest after West Europe. It suffices to note that 72 of the 90 largest U.S. bases are situated in the Far East. In Okinawa alone 42,000 servicemen are stationed, while more than 50,000 soldiers are stationed on the Japanese islands. There are 42,000 U.S. soldiers and officers stationed in South Korea. The Western press reports that on Okinawa -- 20 percent of which is occupied by U.S. military projects -- there are also arsenals with nuclear weapons. South Korea has been turned into a veritable nuclear powder keg. The U.S. Navy in the Pacific is an impressive force, in which are included 6 aircraft carriers, 24 submarines equipped with ballistic missiles, and 87 naval units.

For a long time Washington has considered plans for establishing a second NATO in the Far East -- a tripartite military alliance including the United States, Japan, and South Korea -- which will operate as a branch of the aggressive North Atlantic bloc.

ALLY NUMBER ONE Japan is given a special place in Reagan's plans for achieving world domination. Characterizing the present militaristic course of Washington, Yuriy Andropov emphasized that the United States is trying to restore Japanese militarism and include it in the military-political machine of the North Atlantic bloc. In addition to this, Japan is also given a major rule in the entire Asian and Pacific "system of security," which is also provided for in the U.S. plans.

As is known, a cornerstone in U.S.-Japanese relations is the 1952 "security pact," which was renewed in 1960, according to which the United States will repeatedly involve its Pacific ally in the orbit of its adventurous activity.

Nakasone's government is readily fulfilling all Reagan's wishes. Thus, for example, in his speech to the Diet on 3 December 1983, the prime minister confirmed in his program Japanese loyalty to the U.S.-Japanese military-political alliance. According to Nakasone's speech, the United States "is the most important partner of Japan, with whom it is closely linked politically, economically, and in many other spheres." He emphasized that the Japanese Government will support the causes of the Japanese-U.S. "security treaty" and will strive for a "qualitative increase" in its military potential.

On the eve of Nakasone's visit to Washington, the Japanese Government adopted a decision to increase military expenditures in 1983 by 6.5 percent and to also give to the Pentagon all of the country's existing types of technology.

The Japanese Government has done this regardless of the previously proclaimed principles of renouncing the shipment of armaments abroad. Within the complex of Japanese militaristic obligations is also included Tokyo's accord to extend the sphere of the Japanese Armed Forces' operations to 1,000 miles from the coasts of the country.

Speaking to the Diet at the beginning of 1983, Nakasone stated that the Armed Forces of the country will maintain a combat link with the U.S. naval forces in case some "extraordinary conditions" emerge. In addition to this, he emphasized that these military operations will exclusively be an "act of self-defense" and these alleged operations were not contrary to the constitution of the country, which prohibits any presence of armed forces and any disputes. The prime minister also confirmed Japan's readiness to begin a blockade of the strategically important straits in the Far East in case any "emergency conditions" emerge.

As is known, at the conference of the seven leading industrial countries of the capitalist world in Williamsburg, Nakasone fully backed the U.S. stand on deploying U.S. intermediate missiles in West Europe. What is more, the Japanese prime minister, regardless of the overwhelming opposition of Japanese public opinion, called for a review of the constitution having in mind that the legitimate new offensive role of the "forces for self-defense" in Japan has to be recognized.

During the last talks with the boss of the White House, Nakasone said that Japan will continue in the future to spare no efforts to strengthen U.S.-Japanese relations in the security sphere. In his assessment of the results of the talks, Reagan was pleased to note the following: "We applaud Japan on its increased role as a coguarantor of peace and progress in international economic and political affairs."

THE SOUTH KOREAN SITE OF AGGRESSION OF THE UNITED STATES. In contrast to the demostrative "love for peace" in Tokyo, Reagan has abandoned his angel's wings in Seoul, put on the military uniform again, and spoken about "the threat from the North." One should note the fact that he made this statement in one of the U.S. bunkers near the demarcation line between the DPRK and South Korea. The chief of the White House said that in case of emergency, the number of U.S. soldiers stationed in South Korea will be increased. As the Western media reported, Washington intends to turn the entire south of the Korean Peninsula into an aggressive site for U.S. nuclear weapons by tactical nuclear weapons, some Pershing II and cruise missiles.

In addition, South Korea itself today has a huge Army equipped with the latest modern offensive weapons. Seoul's military expenditures in 1983 represented 40 percent of the country's budget. South Korea is the most important component of the aggressive triangle.

The United States is now striving by all means to make the established tripartite military alliance operational. This is necessary for Washington so that it can create an Asian equivalent of NATO and unite the western and eastern wings of the aggressive imperialistic blocs as soon as possible.

COMMENTARY DECRIES U.S. MILITARY EXPENDITURES

LD011227 Moscow World Service in English 0900 GMT 1 Jan 84

[Text] The Supreme Soviet also approved the national budget for 1984. The country will spend more than 17 billion rubles on defence. This is about 22 billion dollars. Here is a commentary from Yuriy Soltan.

The Soviet Union this year will spend no more on defence than it did in 1983. In fact, the share of defense expenditure in the national budget has somewhat lowered, being at about 4.7 percent. The Soviet leadership steadily pursues its policy of spending no more on military needs than is necessary for the security of the Soviet Union and its allies. For comparison, the American Defense Department has gotten Congress to earmark over 280,000 million dollars for its needs in the fiscal year that began last October. The Soviet Union, meanwhile, is to spend 22,000 million.

The contrast is so striking that many listeners ask in their letters how military-strategic parity is possible at all with the Soviet Union spending much less on defense than the United States does. Incidentally, NATO propaganda is trying to exploit this, questioning the official data about Soviet military expenditure. It quotes what it calls researchers at the American Central Intelligence Agency explaining that the Soviet Union spends nearly 25 percent more on military needs as the United States does. From this claim the sum is stupendous. It eats up nearly all of the Soviet Government budget.

What are the true causes of the contrast in the two countries' military expenditure? The main one is the difference between the Soviet and the American foreign policies. A country that has in mind defense nearly always spends less than a country that has declared its intention to prepare for a nuclear war. There are other causes. In the first place, similar types of weapons, nuclear and conventional, need not be equal in cost. In the Soviet Union production costs, including the cost of raw materials and electricity, are much lower than in the United States. According to American economic data carried in the press, American military equipment costs 10 to 16 times as much as similar Soviet equipment. Secondly, all means of production in the Soviet Union are public property and its defense industry cannot be a source of profits to anyone.

Being in the munitions business in the United States offers huge profits by contrast. The rate of profits in the American munitions industry is 50 to 60 percent higher than in civil industries. Before Christmas, one could see a Christmas tree in the American Senate with quite unusual decorations, presenting components of new weaponry that the Pentagon is planning to put on the production line. There were screws, minor parts of new missiles, aircraft and submarines with price tags that have four and five digit figures on them, a telltale sign of the military corporations' appetite. As they get Pentagon orders, these corporations deliberately charge high prices. Sometimes during production, the funds still prove inadequate and the Pentagon asks Congress for another rise.

One also needs to remember that the Soviet Union mans its armed forces based on compulsory recruitment. As for the United States, its military receive high pay for their service. According to available data, the hired Army eats up over half the Pentagon budget. And just one more thing: the United States has enmeshed the world with military bases with nearly half a million personnel. Their upkeep is another major strain on the American taxpayer's pocket.

There are other facts that debunk the claim that the Soviet Union spends as much on military needs as the United States does, or even more. Why does NATO need to falsify the correct data about the Soviet Union's defense spending? Because it wants to mislead world public opinion, stem discontent in the United States and other member countries with growing military expenditure and justify its militaristic foreign policy and that of the United States.

U.S. URGED TO RECONSIDER UNESCO WITHDRAWAL

LD011426 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0730 GMT 1 Jan 84

[Text] The U.S. decision to withdraw from UNESCO has evoked sharp criticism in various countries. Here is a rejoinder by our commentator, Viktor Levin:

[Levin] Across the ocean there have long been expressions of dissatisfaction not only with UNESCO, but with the United Nations as a whole. Washington is unhappy about the fact that U.S. representatives there are not heeded and that their demands not complied with. Moreover, at the UN General Assembly session that has just ended on a whole range of questions of prime importance, the United States found itself basically politically isolated. The views of the United States and the majority of UN member countries were diametrically opposed. The majority called for a freeze on nuclear arms, but the United States opposed this. The majority voted not to permit an extension of the arms race into space, but the United States continued to oppose this. A huge majority of UN member-countries approved the USSR's proposal to ban the use of nuclear weapons, but in this case, too, the United States found itself in the unenviable role of a sergeant major who is the only one marching in step when, in his view, the rest of the company is out of step.

Mrs Kirkpatrick, the U.S. representative at the United Nations, has resorted to every means in the attempt to swing other countries to the U.S. side. She has not refrained from lies, abuse, and threats, without, however, achieving any result. Nor does UNESCO wish to dance to the U.S. tune. It condemns racism, and demands the establishment of a just order in information exchange. In a word, it, too, pays no heed. So the U.S. Administration decided to slam the door. What is the result? Washington has placed itself in an absurd position. The Spanish representative at UNESCO called the decision childish. He was apparently thinking of the way a child, [words indistinct]. But the U.S. Administration supposedly consists not of children, but of adults.

In the West many are now calling on the United States to think again about UNESCO membership. It never does any harm to think, but in doing so it is necessary to start not from imperial ambitions but from reason and realism.

USIA FUNDING OF 'ULTRA-RIGHT' U.S. GROUPS HIT

LD022021 Moscow TASS in English 1926 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Text] Washington January 2 TASS -- TASS correspondent Maksim Knyazkov reports:

Spreading the psychological war against the democratic forces, the Reagan administration allocated 12 million dollars for the implementation of the programmes for financing ultra-right American organizations which are engaged in spiralling anti-communist hysteria both in the United States and abroad.

In a letter to THE WASHINGTON POST, director of the U.S. Information Agency (USIA) Charles Wick stated outright that the allocation of funds to such organization along the lines of the USIA department for educational and cultural affairs is fully in keeping with the interests of the United States.

Such "interests" of the administration are simply explained: Reactionary organizations in the USA getting such aid help the authorities to brainwash not only Americans but also foreign citizens, to impose on them anti-communist concepts of the present chief of the White House. Such ideological subversion is fully in keeping with the "programme of democracy and public diplomacy" which was announced by the President recently. As is known this "programme" envisages the intensification of subversive operations against progressive organizations, gross interference in the affairs of sovereign states.

The ethics and public diplomacy foundation headed by die-hard reactionary Ernest Lefever whom Reagan had tried unsuccessfully to install in the post of the U.S. assistant secretary of state for human and humanitarian affairs is among those organizations that have already received substantial hand-outs from the U.S. propaganda department.

At present Ernest Lefever is engaged in organizing "special seminars" for foreign politicians and public figures visiting the USA. These seminars have the aim of popularising the aggressive course of the Washington administration. The Californian Institute for the Study of Statesmanship is engaged in similar activity. It has also received material aid from USIA.

In the letter to the newspaper Charles Wick boasted that in the 1985 financial year USIA will increase appropriations for these programmes.

OFFICIAL ADVOCATES 'BALANCED' U.S.-SOVIET TRADE

LD310916 Moscow in English to North America 2300 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Oleg Tishenko's remarks in Russian fading into English translation]

[Excerpt] [Unidentified announcer] The founder of the Soviet state, Vladimir Lenin, once said in an interview with the CHICAGO DAILY NEWS that his country was very much in favor of economic agreements with all countries, especially with the United States. He was speaking in 1919, long before the Soviet Union and the United States established diplomatic relations. Our reporter has been told at the national Ministry of Foreign Trade that the Soviet Union continues to pursue this policy, seeing trade as an opportunity to build up international trust. The United States, however, views its trade with the Soviet Union differently. This breeds considerable problems in their economic relations. (Oleg Tishenko) heads the North American section of the Ministry of Foreign Trade. Here's how he sums up Soviet-American trade in the past year.

[Tishenko] In the past year Soviet-American trade has been in a slump, as it was in the previous year, and this results from persistent American efforts to use trade as a means of political pressure on the Soviet Union. Creating conditions that are common practice under international law is something the Americans consider to be a privilege they can only grant to partners who have desirable foreign and domestic policies. Apparently some in America still have the thinking typical of 1917 when Russian was only beginning to set up its socialist economy. Today trade with America can hardly affect the Soviet economy. This year it accounts only for 1 and 1/2 percent of this country's foreign trade and a tiny fraction of 1 percent of its gross national product.

[Announcer] Soviet-American trade has always depended on changes in the two countries' political relations. As a result of American discrimination it's been steadily shrinking since 1980, especially since the Reagan administration came to power. According to early estimates, this trade dropped from 2.2 billion rubles last year to 1.8 billion this year. The fall mainly results from reduced Soviet imports of grain and to some extent from the latest American restrictions on imports of Soviet machinery and equipment. President Reagan made a big stride in this direction when he ordered sanctions in a bid to disrupt the Siberian pipeline project. Now, did the Americans profit from this in any way?

[Tishenko] Well, American companies are known to have found themselves on the losing end. According to the American Department of Commerce they lost over a billion dollars for refusing to cooperate in the project. The Soviet Union placed the contracts with West European and Japanese companies.

[Announcer] There's been a long-standing imbalance in Soviet-American trade. Last year, for example, the Soviet Union imported 13 times more than it exported. Raw materials continued to be its staple export. So how can the Soviet Union claim to be an industrial nation while exporting raw materials?

[Tishenko] This imbalance largely results from the American Trade Act of 1974 which denies the most-favored nation treatment to the Soviet Union, contrary to international law and the Helsinki Final Act. The customs duties the Americans charge for Soviet imports are much higher than for other foreign imports. There are 15 to 20 percent average duties on Soviet imports, while duties on imports from other countries that receive preferential treatment are no more than 5 percent. Discrimination has been especially great with regard to Soviet-made machinery and equipment. American duties on many potential Soviet imports are two to five and even more times higher than usual.

[Announcer] What little Soviet machinery does get on the American market is spoken of highly by American experts. Let's take the joint stock company Belarus Machinery Incorporated that exports Soviet tractors to the United States. According to (Oleg Tishenko), American customers frequently praise their quality. Yet the United States has been trying to keep Soviet machinery and equipment out of its market while at the same time is reducing its exports. Since 1976 it has cut its sales of such products to the Soviet Union fivefold, allegedly because they help the Soviet Union to increase its military potential.

[Tishenko] There is ample evidence to show that this claim is nothing but an invention. The machinery and equipment we import from America accounts for much less than 1 percent of our gross national product.

[Announcer] Though the Soviet Union does have a trade balance with the West, it would like to have a more balanced exchange with the United States. In the past year, there have been positive developments in Soviet-American trade for all its unsteadiness. The two countries have signed a long-term agreement on grain sales between this year and 1988. The American-Soviet Trade and Economic Council has met in New York. Moscow has hosted the Agro-Business USA '83 exhibition which was attended by some 450 representatives of over 100 American firms and 60,000 experts from Soviet organizations concerned. The last question (Oleg Tishenko) answered was how he assessed the outlook for Soviet-American trade.

[Tishenko] Experience shows that breaking off trade is much easier than restoring it. The Soviet Union has never asked the United States for trade. It believes bilateral trade benefits both nations, primarily because it helps to strengthen peace. That's why we call for correcting the present situation. For that the United States needs to give up its ill-advised doctrine of using trade as a means of pressure. We want to develop trade and economic relations with all countries, including the United States, but on an equal basis and to mutual advantage.

REAGAN ATTEMPTS TO JUSTIFY ACTIONS 'FUTILE'

LD312312 Moscow World Service in English 2100 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Text] President Reagan has made a fresh attempt to justify his administration's aggressive course. In his Saturday broadcast, in which he reviewed the results of the year, the President spoke of the events in Lebanon where American troops in the Multinational Force, as it is called, have repeatedly bombed and shelled peaceful towns and villages. The President hypocritically claimed that progress towards peace in Lebanon would be impossible without the presence of the United States Marines there. Reagan also mentioned Grenada where a United States invader force overthrew the legitimate government of that tiny country and embarked on terror and reprisals against the Grenadian people. But President Reagan made a futile attmpt to make it appear as if the Americans had brought the people of Grenada peace and freedom.

U.S. FACING 'GLOOMY' FOREIGN, DOMESTIC PROSPECTS

LD021519 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0900 GMT 2 Jan 84

[By political observer Aleksandr Zholkver]

[Text] I have in front of me the U.S. journal U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT dated today, 2 2 January 1984. For advertising purposes, part of the print run is issued ahead of time, and so one can learn the contents in advance.

Featured in the new year edition are the forecasts for the year that has begun. One cannot fail to notice that this journal, noted for being close to U.S. business circles, has a very gloomy assessment of the prospects. It says the United States faces three areas of crisis: worsening relations with the Soviet Union, greater military involvement in the Near East, and communist successes in Central America. The journal develops these three themes in detail.

It admits that the deployment of the new U.S. nuclear missiles in Europe has seriously complicated Soviet-U.S. relations, but has in no way led to any increased feeling of security among the Americans themselves. On the contrary, according to the latest opinion poll in the United States, 61 percent feel that the actions of the Reagan administration are increasing the threat of war. Seventy-nine percent are sure that the present anti-Soviet policy of the White House has no prospects. Even more, 93 percent agree that such a policy is too dangerous in the nuclear age, and that the United States should base its policy on the peaceful settlement of problems.

U.S. NEWS puts the Near East problem at the top of the list. The journal recalls that in Lebanon, the U.S. Marines have already spilt blood, as it expresses it, and predicts that in the coming year, the United States will face difficult and dangerous problems in the Near East.

The journal also sees storm clouds over Central America. It admits that in spite of the invasion of Grenada, the United States has not succeeded in suppressing the national liberation movement in this region. The journal complains that Nicaragua is taking measures to strengthen its defense. In El Salvador, the government forces, in spite of increased U.S. aid, cannot manage to strike a crushing blow to the partisans.

Also in Asia, in the journal's opinion, the United States is balancing on a tightrope, having in mind the serious election of the pro-U.S. leadership of the ruling party in Japan, and the antigovernment demonstrations agianst the pro-U.S. regime in Pakistan, and the continuing tension in South Korea, the main U.S. satellite in Asia.

As for Africa, U.S. NEWS predicts that Reagan's pro-RSA feeling will complicate United States relations with the countries of the black continent.

The journal thinks that relations between the United States and Western Europe will be more tense in the new year. The annoying question of the U.S. nuclear missiles remains on the agenda, the new year forecast concludes, adding: Throughout Western Europe, the broad public urges closer contacts with Moscow to put an end to the arms race.

Yes, the truth prevails. In spite of all Washington's expectations, the anti-war movement in Western Europe is far from declining, and major new actions by West European peace supporters are planned early in the year. As for Moscow, on the eve of the new year, a new appeal for sense and peace was heard from here, by the whole world. The USSR Supreme Soviet solemnly declared that the Soviet Union wants to live in peace with all countries. The supreme organs of power of the Soviet state expressed the conviction that good sense can and must save mankind from a nuclear disaster.

U.S. DEFICIT 'HINDRANCE' TO ECONOMIC RECOVERY

LD302023 Moscow TASS in English 1915 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Text] Moscow December 30 TASS -- TASS news analyst Ivan Abramov writes: It is with a heavy heart that millions of Americans will usher in the New York. On the new year eve a major U.S. company "U.S. Steel Corporation" announced the closure of five plants, curtailment of production at a number of other enterprises and dismissal of over 20 thousand metal workers. This new year "present" of monopolies to the American working people showed what is the worth of pronouncements of official Washington about "economic recovery" of the USA. The journal TIME reports that many economists and industrialists are unusually dispondent and alarmed. While war industry concerns are making headway, such key sectors of the U.S. economy as metallurgy, machine-tool manufacture, the construction of building equipment are gripped by depression.

Production facilities in metallurgy operate to only 58.7 per cent of their capacity. The industries supplying raw materials for metallurgy including the coal industry, are stagnating alongside metallurgy. Machine-building is experiencing a slump. Orders for machine tools this year will be 73 per cent down on 1979. And many companies are now living through their worst times since the "great depression" of the thirties.

Because of the depression, the United States had this year the record number of bankrupticies since the thirties. Becuase of the arms race on which hundreds of billions of dollars are squandered which otherwise could be used for the modernization of the production potential, the United States is losing positions on world markets. The deficit of the United States trading balance this year will reach 70 billion dollars as against 42.7 billion dollars last year and might surpass 100 billion dollars in the new year.

The biggest anxiety in the U.S. political and economic circles is connected with the heightening of the budget crisis, as it was described by NEWSWEEK, namely with huge deficits of the U.S. budget caused above all by the wasteful military spending. Former Vice President Walter Mondale said in an interview to THE NEW YORK TIMES, that "Reaganomics", the deliberate creation of the budget deficit is the crudest mistake in the economic policy in the contemporary history. This burdens our children with a yoke of debts running into trillions, Walter Mondale said. Besides that, the United States is retreating on all the fronts of economic competition in the world, the rates of growth of accumulation and capital investments in the construction of new enterprises, introduction of new technology are slowing down, This is a catastrophe, he said.

The organ of the business circles, the journal FORTUNE predicts that huge budget deficits and still higher interest rates they engender will be a hindrance to machine-building, stocks of goods, output of automobiles and housing construction. While even businessmen for whom the Reagan administration is so zealously concerned are so despondent on the New Year Eve, what about the common people in the USA? During the latest public opinion poll held by THE LOS ANGELES TIMES 70 per cent of Americans said that they predict for the new year a further fall of the real incomes as a result of the inflation and increased taxes. The ax of "austerity" of the Reagan Government will result in cuts of social progrms for the needy in the new year, too. According to a report published by Senator Edward Kennedy hunger is on a rampage in America on the threshold of 1984 for the first time since the "Great Depression" of the thirties. 35 million American living below the official "poverty line" and about 20 million "official" unemployed, people who are not registered at the labour market and who work an incomplete working day suffer above all from malnutrition in the United States. Such are "gifts" of Reagan's Santa Clause to the working people of the United States.

REAGAN NOTES 'SATISFACTION' IN CALL TO NAKASONE

LD302131 Moscow TASS in English 1959 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Text] Tokyo December 30 TASS -- TASS correspondent Sergey Logachev reports:

The passions around parliamentary elections in Japan, which brought defeat to the Liberal Democratic Party, hardly abates, as President Ronald Reagan was in a hurry to encourage in his telephone call Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone who was near to losing his post for his government's policy of consolidating militaristic alliance with the United States and building up the military might of the country.

The U.S. President did not conceal satisfaction with the fact that the Nakasone administration managed to keep in power with the help of back-stage manoeuvres. The boss of the White House expressed hope for further expansion of American-Japanese links.

As is noted by the press, the Japanese prime minister was in a hurry to assure Reagan of his invariable policy towards the United States. He again declared support for Washington's obstructionist stand on problems of disarmament. Nakasone asserted that the foundation for negotiations with the Soviet Union should be the foreign policy statement of the conference of the leaders of seven biggest capitalist countries in Williamsburg which is known to have set the aim of attaining NATO's military superiority over the USSR and its allies.

The newspaper TOKYO SHIMBUN today expresses serious concern over the Japanese ruling circles' even more active joining Reagan's adventurist strategy. At the parliamentary elections the Japanese electors expressed profound concern over the Nakasone conservative government's course of strengthening the militaristic alliance with the United States and establishing close contacts with the American President. An end should be put to that dangerous policy, the newspaper stresses.

NAKASONE SEEKS TO RESUME 'DIALOGUE' WITH USSR

LD011512 Moscow TASS in English 1448 GMT 1 Jan 84

[Text] Tokyo January 1 TASS -- The Prime Minister of Japan Yashuhiro Nakasone called for stronger allied relations with the USA, asserting that he was guided, in the first place, by the national interests of Japan. The newly-elected head of government made this statement despite the fact that the recent parliamentary elections clearly demonstrated strong public opposition in Japan to the policy aimed at making the country a base of militarism and to the plans for drawing Japan closer to NATO.

Washington's policy which is being imposed on Tokyo and which is supported by the present Government of Japan, seriously affects the national interest of the country. But in his first key policy statement made after he took office the prime minister supported again the White House's decision to install American medium-range missiles in Western Europe.

He said nothing about the fact that the American nuclear-missile weapons deployed on seas around Japan as well as in the Philippines and Micronesia pose a threat not only to the Soviet Union but also to the entire region of the Far East and jeopardize Japanese interests in this part of Asia.

In his statement Nakasone focused on Japan's policy towards the Soviet Union. He said that his country should "maintain a dialogue with the most difficult partner", as he described the Soviet Union. Therefore, Nakasone said, Japan wants to resume such a dialogue. At the same time he tried to present the matter as if there existed some difficult-to-solve problems in Japanese-Soviet relations. Among these he mentioned Tokyo's groundless territorial claims to several islands belonging to the Soviet Union. The question of which had been settled. At the same time the prime minister assured that he was anxious to use any opportunity for deepening the dialogue with the Soviet Union. He said nothing, however, whether the Government of Japan had any plan for improving relations with the USSR.

NORODOM SIHANOUK ARRIVES IN DPRK FOR VISIT

PM031021 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 31 Dec 83 Morning Edition p 5

[Unattributed report under general heading: "Brief Reports"]

[Text] N. Sihanouk, one of the ringleaders of the Khmer reaction and "president" of so-called "Democratic Kampuchea," has arrived in Pyongyang.

U.S. 'CONTINUING UNDECLARED WAR' IN AFGHANISTAN

PM011800 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 2 Jan 84 First Edition p 5

[Editorial Article: "Continuing the Undeclared War: How the United States Is Impeding the Normalization of the Situation Around Afghanistan"]

[Text] When summing up the results of the year 1983 one cannot fail to mention Southwest Asia among the planet's "hotspots." Utilizing its NATO partners and certain reactionary regimes and gambling on Pakistan and the Afghan counterrevolutionary rabble, U.S. imperialism is stepping up its aggression against the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. The United States' undeclared war against the Afghan people is continuing.

The U.S. State Department recently held a 2-day provocative assemblage entitled "Forum on Afghanistan." Its participants, and in particular the ringleaders of the bandit detachments entrenched in military camps on the territory of Pakistan, discussed the galvanization of subversive actions against the DRA. At issue was a substantial increase in deliveries of modern weapons, in particular 20-mm guns used by the armies of Switzerland and Italy. The idea was mooted of establishing an "Afghan Government in exile" to coordinate the subversive activity against the DRA with the U.S. Administration and its allies.

The meeting was conducted by U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Political Affairs L. Eagleburger. He was not ashamed to report how the services of the Afghan mercenaries and terrorists are paid for. Since 1980 the Reagan administration has given them over $300 million. But this is only the tip of the iceberg. The main revenue moves via the secret channels of the CIA and the Pentagon. Eagleburger left no doubt that this "assistance" would be expanded in accordance with the counterrevolutionaries' "recommendations."

However, the gamble on the shabby Afghan basmachis is clearly not justifying Washington's hopes. The gangs of interventionists are powerless to halt the progressive development of the Afghan revolution. In this connection the White House has begun to display still more dangerous tendencies -- toward direct armed interference in Afghanistan's affairs. The United States is inciting the Pakistani regime; preparation is under way for intervention with the participation of the United States itself.

Pakistan has been transformed into the main base for the preparation and implementation of the imperialist intervention against Afghanistan. In the areas of Peshawar, Quetta, Parachinar, Chitral, and other towns and populated points its territory is covered with a dense network of special camps under the leadership of U.S. and other military instructors and advisers. The training of armed formations of mercenaries has been launched in these subversive sabotage and terrorist centers. Since 1978 gangs equipped with modern weapons have been transformed from here into the DRA on an ever increasing scale.

Assigning to Pakistan the role of its assistant, and seeking to turn it into America's gendarme in this explosive region, the United States has granted it military aid totaling more than $3 billion. Forty of the latest F-16 fighter-bombers are being delivered to the Pakistan Air Force.

In the Pentagon's scenario -- according to the Indian magazine MAINSTREAM -- Pakistan's Army is to play the role of a sort of "vanguard" for the U.S. Rapid Deployment Force. A special division comprising 20,000 officers and men has already been set up in Pakistan with a view to the implementation of this plan.

It has been equipped and trained along the lines of the U.S. Rapid Deployment Force. In the event of the emergence of a "crisis situation" in the Persian Gulf zone or any other spot in the region, it will be airlifted on U.S. transport planes. The collaboration of the Armed Forces of Pakistan and the United States has already been rehearsed during maneuvers involving B-52 strategic bombers and F-16 fighter-bombers. Pakistan has agreed to the location of a U.S. "Central Command" (Centcom) in Karachi to direct military actions in this region. And some 19 states of Asia and Africa, Afghanistan included, have been unceremoniously incorporated in Centcom's zone of operation.

Washington's actions are aimed at the continuation of the planned and carefully prepared aggression against the DRA. Yes, precisely aggression. For this term, according to Article 3 of the definition of aggression adopted by the United Nations in 1974, characterizes, in particular, such actions as "the infiltration [zasylka] by or on behalf of a state of armed gangs, groups, irregular forces, or mercenaries who perpetrate acts of armed force against another state."

By resorting to terror, which has been elevated to the rank of state policy, U.S. imperialism is still counting on exacting revenge for the weakness of its strategic positions in the Persian Gulf zone, Iran in particular. It seeks to maintain an atmosphere of tension in this region, in order to exploit this for impudent interference in the affairs of the countries of Southwest Asia, as is being done in the Near East or Latin America. It should be noted in this connection that, however strange, the Iranian regime has ended up in the same trench as its bitterest enemy -- U.S. imperialism -- in terms of anti-Afghan onslaughts [vylazki].

The broadening of the undeclared war against Afghanistan and the direct involvement in it of the United States and Pakistan are causing legitimate alarm and concern. "Pakistan is already interfering in Afghanistan's internal affairs," Indian Prime Minister I. Gandhi has stated. "The deployment of U.S. Pershings on the territory of Pakistan will not meet the interests of that country. Reagan is well aware of our viewpoint on this matter. Such arms deliveries are leading to increased tension in the region."

The plans for the deployment of Pershings in Pakistan are presented by Western propaganda as "countermeasures to the presence of the Soviet military contingent in Afghanistan." But there is no logic in such "arguments."

The Soviet Union's decision to come to the assistance of the Government of the DRA in conformity with the 1978 Treaty of Friendship, Good-neighborliness, and Cooperation was taken at a time when there was a threat to the very independent existence of this state, a threat to its territorial integrity. This was an enforced defensive measure dictated by the extreme circumstances.

The USSR held out the hand of assistance to a neighbor which was defending democratic transformations against encroachments by external counterrevolution. Naturally, it also proceeded from the interests of ensuring the security of its own southern borders. Moreover, from the outset it was officially declared that the Soviet military assistance is of a limited and temporary nature. The Soviet Union advocates the political solution of the Afghan question: it has expressed its readiness to withdraw its troops by agreement with the DRA Government immediately. There is an end to the foreign interference in Afghan affairs and guarantees are given that such interference will not be resumed in the future. The USSR is interested in Afghanistan's remaining a neutral and nonaligned state and its good neighbor. Nothing has changed in this principled Soviet position.

But it is the United States which is doing everything to prevent the normalization of the situation around Afghanistan. And, what is more, it is doing this not only by military but by political means also. The White House regularly stages events on the occasion of the so-called "Afghanistan Day" with the participation of high-ranking individuals. The aim of these events is to blacken and distort the achievements and victories of the Afghan people following the April revolution, and to inspire the enemies of Democratic Afghanistan to new killings and acts of vandalism.

The DRA is the target of an unbridled propaganda war in which all kinds of "voices" of the Voice of America type and their yes-men, the Western mass propaganda media, are taking part.

Finally, the United States is overtly trying to wreck any diplomatic steps aimed at the settlement of the situation which has taken shape around Afghanistan.

As is known, guided by the principles of peaceful coexistence and the interests of the maintenance of normal relations with all states bordering on Afghanistan, the Government of the DRA put forward a constructive program for a political settlement in its statements of 14 May 1980 and 24 August 1981. On Kabul's initiative Afghan-Pakistani talks began via the personal representative of the UN secretary general, Diego Cordovez. An important round of these talks took place in Geneva in June 1983. Attention centered on questions of the cessation of the interference in the DRA's affairs, the provision of reliable international guarantees for the complete cessation of such interference and its nonresumption in the future, and also of the return of the refugees.

According to the Afghan side's evaluation, definite progress was made at the talks. An understanding was reached between the sides on most of the points on the agenda, declared the DRA's deputy minister of foreign affairs, S. Yurish. It is possible to say that a step forward was taken during these talks, S. Yurish remarked. In the event that the next round of talks proceeded without obstacles, the possibility would have been created for the holding of direct talks between the DRA and Pakistan in the very near future with a view to the speediest settlement of the existing problems.

But it was at precisely this period that the U.S. secretary of state visited Islamabad. According to Western news media, in response to the report by Pakistan's foreign minister on the progress made at the Geneva talks, not only did he not express approval but he even attempted to convince Pakistani circles that these talks would bring no results. What is more, the head of U.S. diplomacy visited the camps in Peshawar where the Afghan counterrevolutionaries are trained and promised increased assistance for them.

The U.S. secretary of state did not fail to declare that Washington attaches "very great importance" to Pakistan in the strategic plane as a "front-line state." But which "front" is at issue here for a power situated on the other side of the world to Southwest Asia? Only a front of aggression, only actions aimed at wrecking any peace initiatives by Kabul leading to the normalization of the situation. On the eve of the new year THE WASHINGTON POST wrote bluntly about this precise matter, about Washington's "negative position," and about the sabotaging of a political settlement. In its words, the United States "will not approve key provisions of a draft agreement (between the DRA and Pakistan) which have already been formulated, even if the remaining disputed issues can be resolved."

However, U.S. imperialism gambles on dictating its will to the Afghan and other peoples in vain.

Although foreign intervention and the undeclared war have become an arduous ordeal for Afghanistan, the republic is gaining strength. The Afghan people are firmly and steadily building a new life. That which has already been acomplished or is being done in the socioeconomic, cultural, and other spheres of life meets the fundamental interests of the overwhelming majority of the DRA's population. It is this that explains the growing support for the policy of the DRA Government on the part of broad strata of the Afghan people.

The people's committees for the defense of the revolution and the trade union, women's, and youth organizations are expanding their work. A national fatherland front has been established which unites representatives of different classes. The involvement of broad strata of the population in the building of a new, just society is primarily the result of the activity of the PDPA, which has already acquired considerable experience.

Afghanistan's defense capability has grown. The attempts to place our southern neighbor in a position of political isolation in the international arena have proved fruitless.

It has long been time to abandon the illusion that the course of history can be reversed. The revolutionary process in Afghanistan is irreversible. The Afghan people have reliable friends. All attempts to talk with Afghanistan in the language of force are senseless. There is only one path -- the path of negotiations, the path of a political settlement. The revolutionary Afghan Government advocates precisely this. Such also is the position of the Soviet Union, which views the struggle for the normalization of the situation in this region as a part of the overall struggle for the elimination of tension, for peace throughout the world.

DOST: DRA POLICY BASED ON NONALIGNED PRINCIPLES

PM030938 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 30 Dec 83 p 4

[Interview given by DRA Foreign Minister Shah Mohammad Dost to APN's Kabul correspondent for SELSKAYA ZHIZN, published under the rubric "SELSKAYA ZHIZN's Interview": "Afghanistan: Devotion to the Cause of Peace" -- no date or place specified -- first paragraph is a SELSKAYA ZHIZN editorial introduction]

[Text] DRA Foreign Minister Shah Mohammad Dost answered SELSKAYA ZHIZN's questions, which were asked at our Editorial Board's request by APN's Kabul correspondent.

Question: During 1983 Afghanistan participated actively in the work of many regional and international forums. What goals has the DRA set for itself in the foreign policy sphere?

Answer: In its foreign policy the DRA is guided by the principles of the Nonaligned Movement, of which it is an active participant. We advocate peaceful coexistence and the solution of disputed problems by peaceful means. We are in favor of developing friendship and cooperation with all countries on the basis of full equality, mutual respect, and observance of the UN Charter. At all international forums the DRA has resolutely supported initiatives aimed at ending the arms race, at disarmament, detente, and the liquidation of foreign military bases on other countries' territory.

Speaking specifically about the Asian region, we, just like all the other peace-loving states in South and Southwest Asia, are highly perturbed by the escalation of U.S. military presence in the Persian Gulf area and the Indian Ocean and by the expansion of the network of U.S. military bases there.

The establishment of "Centcom" -- the U.S. Central Command -- is specific proof of the U.S. Administration's intentions to expand its military presence in the region over a vast area stretching from Kenya to Pakistan. In this connection, and within the context of the U.S. anti-Afghan policy, we and many others are disturbed by the accelerated militarization of Pakistan. This renders the situation even more explosive.

Question: What is your view on the prospects for a political settlement of the situation around Afghanistan? What changes have occurred in the settlement process recently?

Answer: The significance of the speediest and all-embracing solution to this problem is obvious. The normalization of the situation around Afghanistan is in the interests not just of the Afghan people. Everyone will gain from a political settlement.

The fundamental principles for normalization were formulated by the DRA Government back in May 1980. That was when we addressed a proposal to Pakistan and Iran to conduct talks on the establishment of relations in line with principles of good-neighborliness, equality, and noninterference in one another's internal affairs.

The Afghan Government reaffirmed its adherence to the fundamental principles of a political settlement in its 24 August 1981 statement. According to our deeply held belief, all problems and differences existing between the region's countries could be successfully and speedily resolved were it not for the constant interference by the United States and its allies, who are continuing their undeclared war against the DRA. Gangs of subversionists and terrorists, trained in more than 100 camps on Pakistani territory, are being continuously sent across the border into Afghanistan. They are being equipped with the latest weapons, including chemical weapons. The present U.S. Administration continues its course of escalating the armed interference in the DRA's affairs, thus maintaining the conditions under which we are forced to resort to the Soviet Union's military assistance.

And yet the idea of political settlement encounters increasing support among the world public. At the recently concluded 38th UN General Assembly session many delegates noted that the blame for the conflict around Afghanistan lies with the present U.S. leadership. The idea of a political settlement put forth by the DRA Government was supported by the seventh conference of heads of state and government of nonaligned countries in Delhi.

A second round of talks with Pakistan was held in Geneva through the mediation of the UN secretary general's personal envoy. The DRA Government considered and still considers that direct talks between our countries would be more effective. Nonetheless, we regard as positive the round of talks held in Geneva. A step has been taken forward in the diplomatic process and some positive trends have emerged.

We sincerely believe that our peace-loving initiatives and the concrete actions being taken by the DRA in the international arena jointly with all peace-lvoing forces will lead to normalization of the situation in Southwest Asia.

DRA SPOKESMAN HITS 'ADVENTURIST' REAGAN POLICY

LD021232 Moscow TASS in English 1132 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Text] Kabul, Jan 1 BAKHTAR -- A spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the DRA made the following observation while replying to a question by a BIA corresponsdent about the latest statement of Ronald Reagan:

It appears from the news broadcast from the international news media that president of the biggest predatory power of the world Ronald Reagan who pursues an adventurist and mischievous policy has issued lately another demagogic statement which is a continuation of hundreds of acts of intervention in the internal affairs of our independent and sovereign country. It appears that after the flopping of notorious drama of the so-called seminar around Afghanistan at the U.S. State Department Reagan now has resorted to another desperate effort. The objective is to justify before the world public opinion the continuation of the undeclared imperialist war against our revolution and people and encourage, on the other hand, the brute counter-revolution which, as a result of the heroic struggle of our brave people is nearing its complete annihilation with every passing day, to commit further crimes and massacres against our people.

Acting like a godfather Reagan devotes the major part of his statement to praising the obscurantist counter-revolution and lauding their inhuman misdeeds. One can see easily that Reagan administration is very much pleased to see that still the blood of innocent children, defenceless women and old people is being shed in revolutionary Afghanistan by U.S. lackeys and that still the burning of mosques, schools and hospitals and the destruction of roads, bridges and power transmission lines is continuing. Thus yesterday if we read in the statement of Reagan that the continuation of the undeclared war against the DRA has become the official and open policy of militarist Washington administration, now we can see that the USA being unable to conceal its hostility vis-a-vis our freeborn people openly expresses its joy over the continuation of the bloodshed in our country and extends stubbornly promises for all kinds of assistance including sophisticated advanced weapons to professional terrorists.

Thus, the Reagan administration would not like these bloodsheds coming to an end, undoubtedly, the responsibility for all this bloodshed lies with these peddlers and their puppets. History will take them to task.

Of course, such an attitude by present U.S. Administration which is the most degraded representatives of military, industrial complex does not surprise anyone. It is not only our people who for the past several years have been feeling the unlimited hostility of this administration in the form of undeclared imperialist war and the existence of its hired bandits. In fact all the awakened people who are fighting for their national and social emancipation are confronted with the animosity of Reagan administration.

If Reagan administration on the one hand demagogically speaking of Islam and of the so-called defence of Islam, on the other hand, it has not sufficed with the military, political and economic support to Zionism who under its instigation committed inhuman crimes against the heroic people of Palestine, the Lebanese patriots and the Arab world and carried out the ominous massacre in Sabra and Shatila camps. Now, the United States with the deployment of the military forces in the soil of Lebanon and the sea coasts of that country, have taken position against the Arab Muslim people.

Now, even Reagan himself is not out to conceal that aggression, intervention and the military occupation constitute his major approaches for fulfilling his plunderous imperialist goals in the sphere of foreign policy. By using its huge war machine, Reagan's administration trampled on the rights of the people of Grenada their sovereignty and their independence and with the occupation of this small island explicitly spoke of its occupation.

This is the same administration, which helps its puppet government in El Salvador by sending arms and military men for ever further murdering of Salvadorean people. By sendin terrorists and saboteurs to Nicaragua the Americans are reporting to subversion and murder in that country. As also, the USA threatens the other countries of the region including the heroic Cuba with the deployment of its naval forces.

Apart from all these, the Reagan administration not only intensifies its arms race by installing Pershing 2 and cruise missiles in Western Europe and the decision for their installation even in some of the countries of the region but openly talks of a limited or atomic war. For achieving this aim, the U.S. Administration extends the dimensions of the arms race to the airspace of other countries. The establishment of the Centcom for commanding the Rapid Deployment Forces in the Gulf region and Indian Ocean in order to threaten the sovereignty of the littoral and their neighboring states, dragging Japan ever further into the military axis of the USA/Japan/South Korea, pressurising the NATO allies for increasing military expenditures and the establishment and reinforcement of aggressive military bases in different parts of the world including in our neighborhood -- all these are the examples of the militarist frenzy of Reagan administration.

Yet in spite of all this, Reagan permits himself to talk of human rights. The mention of our country by him in military language clearly exposes his intention to continue bloodshed in our country as being a gift of the new year, if the Reagan administration be interested in the end of bloodshed in our country. He can simply take a realistic decision to accept the defeat of his aggressive policies against our country and take a decisive step for the peaceful settlement of the situation around Afghanistan by ending completely the undeclared war against revolutionary Afghanistan.

BANGLADESH EXPULSION OF SOVIET DIPLOMATS ANALYZED

BK301613 Moscow in Bengali to Bangladesh 1500 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Aleksandr Korolev commentary]

[Text] A few days ago the Bangladesh authorities took an unprecedented step which is inevitably contradictory to the nature and character of Soviet-Bangladesh relations, which have been generally friendly. The Bangladesh authorities decided to expel some Soviet diplomats. Immediately after this, completely baseless allegations were made against them. According to Dhaka reports, the local administration also wants to obstruct the functioning of the Soviet cultural center. These activities of the Bangladesh authorities are nothing but an effort to hamper the friendly relations between our two countries.

In this context one question becomes prominent. The question may seem a natural one, but it deserves special explanation now. For what purpose do two countries exchange diplomatic missions and what are Dhaka's responsibilities toward Soviet diplomats? Let me remind you at the outset that the Soviet Union earnestly recognized Bangladesh without any delay when it was established on the rubble of the former eastern wing of Pakistan in 1971. A widely circulated notion around the world is that the Soviet Union's moral and diplomatic support at the United Nations and at other levels considerably helped in the establishment of this state. Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had said that the people of Bangladesh would never forget the Soviet help during difficult days of the motherland. Yes, support to independent development of all nations is consistent with Soviet foreign policy and the activities of the Soviet diplomats abroad. I am not repeating this well-knwon truth to give advice. [ami nitibakya hisabe aye subidito satya kathar punarabritti korchi na]

We cannot but pay attention to the Western media's evaluation of the Bangladesh authorities' activities. The Western media is joining in a chorus and in an attempt to level charges against Soviet diplomats, which is not usually their habit. [as heard] Though unwillingly, the Western quarters are somewhat exposing the inside story of these incidents. Consequently, a question naturally arises. To what extent is the Bangladesh authorities' above-mentioned step a result of Western diplomatic pressure? The timing of the step is also noteworthy. A few days ago there was a major scandal involving U.S. Embassy and consulate personnel in a country neighboring Bangladesh. It has been indisputably proven that their activities were incompatable with their diplomatic positions, and they had to leave that country. But the incident did not end there. It was noted that special U.S. departments retaliating in other places tried to divert people's attention from that scandal. Perhaps keeping this intention in mind, certain quarters in Dhaka engaged in a provocative conspiracy. For those who are somewhat familiar with policies and methods of certain U.S. departments which originate from U.S. sources, such an idea is not at all exaggerated. What is noteworthy is that the provocative steps of the Bangladesh authorities were taken immediately after the recent high-level contact between Bangladesh and the United States.

Now, let me discuss the present condition and background of Soviet-Bangladesh relations. Despite every effort to harm these relations, we think they have stabilized considerably. The history of our relations isn't even bad. In this context, raising the issue of the number of Soviet diplomats in Bangladesh may be considered impudent. In fact, it causes a deterioration in Soviet-Bangladesh relations. Soviet diplomats in Dhaka were engaged in solving a number of issues relating to cooperation between the two countries. It is quite difficult to enumerate the areas in which they were directly involved. Chittagong Port was rehabilitated in a short time. A Chittagong electrical machinery factory and the Ghorasal Thermal Power Station were established. A number of other projects were also implemented. Undoubtedly, the contribution of Soviet Embassy personnel in Dhaka was not insignificent.

The cultural relations between our two countries have widely developed due to the diplomats' efforts. The question arises that when the Bangladesh authorities without any reason raise the question of reducing the number of Soviet diplomats in this country, then how is the natural development of mutually beneficial cooperation possible?

It has not been too long since the representatives of the Bangladesh Government showed mutual understanding. The deputy leader of the military administration, Communication Minister Mahbub Ali Khan, in a TASS interview last November, expressed the desire to stabilize and develop overall relations with the Soviet Union. Mahbub Ali Khan stressed that Bangladesh desired increased Soviet participation in implementation of its national development program. The Soviet side correctly evaluated such a desire. But the other side should fully comprehend that it is necessary to ensure for the Soviet representatives the coordinated [words indistinct] with universally accepted diplomatic norms. Any attempt to put hurdles before their work may harm their cooperation for the benefit of their people. We hope that all the provisions of the joint communique signed by leaders of the Soviet Union and Bangladesh on 3 March 1972 are still valid. The document stressed that further development of friendly relations and effective cooperation is consistent with the interests of the people of the Soviet Union and Bangladesh and their interest of joint struggle against imperialism and neocolonialism.

SRV NATIONAL ASSEMBLY STATEMENT DETAILED

PM031011 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 31 Dec 83 Morning Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Full Approval"]

[Text] Hanoi, 30 Dec -- At a session held here, the SRV National Assembly has unanimously adopted a statement expressing full support for the peace-loving initiatives of the Soviet Union and the other Warsaw Pact states and the 24 November statement by Yu.V. Andropov, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, stressing their tremendous importance for safeguarding peace and the peoples' security.

The statement resolutely criticizes the Reagan administration's militarist course, U.S. imperialism's aggressive designs and actions, and gross U.S. interference in sovereign states' internal affairs. The national assembly denounced the U.S.-Chinese alliance and stressed its determination to rebuff Beijing's subversive actions against the SRV.

The National Assembly appealed to the parliaments of all countries to do everything possible to organize a mass movement for peace and the elimination of the threat of war.

The state plan and budget for 1984, adopted at the session, provide for a further buildup of the pace of socialist building and the growth of production in the most important sectors.

A law was adopted on the election of people's committee deputies providing for the expansion of deputies' rights and duties and the enhancement of the people's committees' role in resolving questions of economic and cultural building locally.

OFFICIAL 'FULL INDEPENDENCE' OF BRUNEI NOTED

LD010925 Moscow TASS in English 0815 GMT 1 Jan 84

[Text] London January 1 TASS -- Brunei, a small state in Southeast Asia in the north of Kalimantan Island, has received full independence. Beginning with 1888 this tiny sultanate with an area of 5,800 square kilometres and a population of over 200,000 had been under British protectorate.

Officially, all the fullness of power and control of defence and the foreign policy of the state are now in the hands of Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'Izzaddin Wadaullah.

JARUZELSKI SPEECH TO VOIVODAS REPORTED

PM022019 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 30 Dec 83 First Edition p 6

[TASS report: "Important Tasks"]

[Text] Warsaw, 29 Dec -- A voivodas conference has been held here to discuss the main directions of the government's work in the coming year and the provisions of the 1984 state plan for Poland's socioeconomic development. Information was presented on the activity in the country of antisocialist forces closely linked with anticommunist centers in the West.

Addressing the conference, W. Jaruzelski, first secretary of the PZPR Central Committee and chairman of the Polish Council of Minsters, emphasized that socialist Poland has strengthened over the last 2 years and that progress has been made in all spheres of sociopolitical and economic life. Despite the achievements and positive trends, however, it is necessary to perceive with the utmost clarity the existing difficulties and the huge scale of the work that must be done.

The raising of living standards does not depend exclusively on the state's financial potential or on capital investments. In this connection W. Jaruzelski indicated the need to improve the style and methods of work of the organs of power, counteract any manifestations of mismanagement, and strengthen socialist democracy. He called for more active utilization of existing reserves to improve the efficiency of economic management, increase production, and improve labor organization and discipline.

Poland is resolving the tasks of socialist building under the conditions of a deterioriation in the international situation, the first secretary of the PZPR Central Committee declared. The measures we are taking to normalize sociopolitical and economic life are also a contribution to strengthening peace. Poland will consistently restore its prestige.

RYABOV, ROMANIA'S PUNGAN CONFER ON ECONOMICS

PM301125 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 30 Dec 83 First Edition p 6

[TASS report: "Talk Held"]

[Text] A talk took place 29 December between Ya. P. Ryabov, chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, and V. Pungan, Romanian minister of foreign trade and international economic cooperation, in the course of which questions of Soviet-Romanian economic and technical cooperation were discussed.

SOVIET AIR FORCE BOMBER CRASH IN GDR REPORTED

NC311157 Paris AFP in English 1148 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Text] Berlin, Dec 31 (AFP) -- A Soviet air force bomber crashed in East Germany on December 24, killing the two pilots on board, the large-circulation West Berlin newspaper, BERLINER MORGENPOST, said today.

Five Soviet bombers from Poland had been flying low over the Schwedt region in the northeastern part of the country where the accident happened, according to West German witnesses.

The plane came down in a field less than 10 kilometres (about 6 miles) from the border with Poland.

The report today was the first on the crash by the East German media [as received].

BULGARIAN BROCHURE CITED ON ANTONOV 'CRUSADE'

LD021857 Moscow TASS in English 1839 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Text] Sofia December 2 TASS -- The anti-Bulgarian, anti-socialist campaign, masterminded by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, in connection with the alleged involvement of a Bulgarian citizen, Sergey Antonov, in the assassination attempt on the life of the pope in May 1981 has failed in disgrace, stresses a brochure published by the Bulgarian news agency BTA.

The subversive action by the NATO special services and the subsequent anti-communist hysteria in the West around the alleged "Antonov case", the publication notes, were aimed at vitiating the international situation, tense as it was, and discredit Bulgaria and other socialist countries. This has been recognised even by some bourgeois press bodies.

The brochure quotes two secret messages sent by the U.S. ambassador in Italy with their content unequivocally attesting to U.S. involvement in the malicious provocation. The messages bluntly indicate that the goal of the undertaking is to accuse socialist countries of international terrorism. The messages contain also instructions to CIA agents about the need for a skillful and delicate approach to the operation.

These and other facts, the BTA publication points out, fully expose the aggressive policy of Washington that launched a "crusade" against socialist countries. Despite the rejection of the charges against Antonov, the Italian judiciary are still holding him, as was recently announced, under "house arrest." They have no moral right to do so. Antonov must be released, the brochure stresses.

UPCOMING VISIT OF GDR'S FISCHER TO USSR REPORTED

LD021931 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1900 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Text] At the invitation of the Soviet Government, Oskar Fischer, member of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany Central Committee, minister of foreign affairs of the German Democratic Republic, will arrive in Moscow on a visit on 3 January.

In the Soviet Union, Fischer, the GDR foreign minister is welcomed, and the confidence is expressed that his visit will facilitate the further strengthening of fraternal friendship and all-round cooperation between our countries.

BRIEFS

CZECHOSLOVAK GOODS PROTOCOL -- The Soviet-Czechoslovak goods turnover protocol for 1984 was signed in Moscow at the beginning of December. It will exceed R12,000 million and will increase by more than 10 percent compared with this year. Engineering produce will predominate in Czechoslovak exports to the USSR. [Summary] [Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1245 GMT 20 Dec 83 LD]

U.S. MISSILE DEPLOYMENT IN W. EUROPE CONDEMNED

LD301407 Moscow TASS in English 1351 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Text] Moscow December 30 TASS -- By TASS news analyst Vasiliy Kharkov.

The Pentagon has presented Western Europe with a new year "gift" that enhances the mood of alarm of its peoples. Literally on New Year's Eve, the American medium-range nuclear missiles, brought from across the ocean into West Germany, Britain and Italy, are reported to have been made operational. This was done on the sly. The NATO command even decided not to issue any official statement on this occasion, giving the chance to do this to corresponding governments. But those, taking advantage of the Christmas recess in parliaments, prefer to keep silent on this disquieting issue.

So, the population of West Germany, Great Britain and Italy will see New Year in under the shadow of American Pershing and cruise missiles, ready to deliver their death-dealing charges at any moment.

An attempt is being made in the NATO headquarters and the corridors of power on the Rhine, Thames and Tiber to conceal the disastrous consequences of Washington's reckless course that resulted in the deployment of American medium-range nuclear missiles in Western Europe. The Soviet Union, other members of the Warsaw Treaty Organisation repeatedly warned about the threat to peace posed by this course. They stressed that by basing its missiles in Western Europe, the United States was seeking military superiority for the sake of which it is prepared to turn its NATO allies into the Pentagon's nuclear hostages. However, the Governments of West Germany, Britain and Italy, disregarding the vital interests of their peoples, acted as helpers of the Reagan administration in the implementation of its militarist designs. A peace-endangering step of principled significance has thus been made.

The first American Pershing and cruise missiles, fielded in West Germany, Britain and Italy, were made operational precisely at the moment when the supreme body of state authority of the Soviet Union, the USSR Supreme Soviet, called on parliaments and peoples of all countries to make their weighty contribution to resolving the burning problem -- that of preventing nuclear castastrophe. Effective recognition of the principle of equality and equal security, the striving for mutually acceptable accords on its basis, says the resolution of the USSR Supreme Soviet, adopted on Thursday, constitute the only possible way in the present-day conditions toward stronger peace and security of the peoples. The highest legislative body of the USSR expressed firm confidence that reason can and should save mankind from nuclear catastrophe. This confidence is shared on New Year's Eve by the peoples of the USSR and other countries of the socialist community, by all people of goodwill.

Deployment in FRG Decried

DW021229 Moscow in German to Germany 1600 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Vladimir Ostrogorskiy commentary]

[Text] On New Year's Eve, the first battery of U.S. Pershing II missiles is to be placed in its position in the Mutlangen U.S. military base. Vladimir Ostrogorskiy comments on this.

I believe it is not a coincidence but the symbolism of the Pentagon which must be understood as follows: You Germans in the FRG do not try at News Year's Eve to cast lead or wax or make a guess in some other way what the new year may bring. The dice have been thrown, your future has been outlined.

You will live in the shadow of the missile fence, on the power keg. The first Pershing missiles have been moved into combat positions near Mutlangen. According to the U.S. scenario, this is just the prelude of a horrible show at the end of which the entire FRG is supposed to become an enormous launching pad of transatlantic superweapons and the basis of a nuclear war, the probability of which will depend on the preparedness of the United States for war and on its influence exerted on the West, particularly on Western Europe.

Naturally, it would be very sad if we were to enter the new year with the fatal conviction that these U.S. plans and concepts for our continent were inevitable. Fortunately, however, 1983 was not only the year when the implementation of the NATO missile decision began. It was also a year of broadest demonstrations of the people against the arms race. The strongest antimissile demonstrations in the West took place on FRG territory. Is it not a good sign that makes it easier for us to enter the new year despite the U.S. symbols fanning uneasiness?

Hopeful signs of the passing year are also the Soviet initiatives envisaging to our continent a future free of nuclear weapons and missiles. Dear listeners, I remind you of this fact because I noted in reading about a dozen of commentaries of bourgeois FRG papers on the passing year that they rather arbitrarily interpreted the documents of the recent plenary session of the CPSU Central Committee and the meeting in the USSR Supreme Soviet. It was stated, for example, that the Soviet Union did not signal its good will prior to New Year's Eve. Naturally, this is plain nonsense.

The whole package of the 1983 peace proposals of the USSR remains valid. We are prepared, for example, to reduce the number of our missiles and warheads considerably below the 1976 level, when even the current missile fanatics admitted equality. Naturally, this would be possible only if no U.S. missiles existed in Western Europe. One must ask oneself whether any more good will could be possible if one considers that neither this proposal nor all other Soviet initiatives ever have been seriously viewed by the West.

According to an old custom of the people, the poltergeist is expelled on New Year's Eve with fire crackers and many other funny things. To keep the bad spirits from overseas away from our European home, firecrackers will not be enough. That can be achieved only in a long, hard, and purposeful struggle. On the verge of New Year's Eve, I do not want to indulge in black magic. I just dare to predict that this struggle will be carried on the new year with more strength and in much greater dimensions.

In this sense, I wish all our listeners a happy new year.

UK, FRG Share 'Responsibility'

LD310457 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0440 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Text] London, 31 Dec (TASS) -- The British Ministry of Defense has announced that the U.S. cruise missiles recently delivered to the U.S. base at Greenham Common are to be put into "operational readiness" by the end of today. At this base, 100 km west of London, 16 such missiles carrying nuclear warheads are now sited.

On the previous day, the FRG Ministry of Defense announced that the first batch of U.S. Pershing II nuclear missiles, designed to mount a first strike, have been made combat ready.

Thus the Governments of the FRG and Britain have taken upon themselves the most serious responsibility for aggravating the situation on the European Continent, breaking the existing military balance between the Warsaw Pact and NATO, and for all possible consequences for the peoples of Europe and the whole world of these dangerous actions which are only in keeping with the interests of the nuclear maniacs from the Pentagon.

BELGIAN GOVERNMENT VIEWS MISSILE DEPLOYMENT

LD302147 Moscow TASS in English 2117 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Text] Brussels December 30 TASS -- The Belgian Government today held a meeting which discussed, as one of the main items, the problem of deploying in Belgium 48 cruise missiles that are being imposed on it by the Pentagon and NATO. At a press conference after the meeting, the Prime Minister Wilfried Martens said that "the programme for deployment must proceed according to the schedule". In the process, he referred to a "lack of a settlement of the missile problem through negotiations".

As is known, the responsibility for the disruption of the Geneva talks lies suqarely with the United States which, from the very start, did not wish to reach a mutually acceptable agreement on nuclear arms in Europe and did everything possible, both at the talks and elsewhere, to avoid reaching such an agreement.

SIBERIA-W. EUROPE GAS PIPELINE OPERATIONAL

LD021234 Moscow TASS in English 1150 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Text] Moscow January 2 TASS -- TASS news analyst Ivan Ablamov writes:

The Siberia-Western Europe gas pipeline has started functioning. According to reports, France received the first cubic metres of natural gas from Urengoy on the first day of the new year. Gas is expected to come to the FRG, Austria, Italy, Switzerland, and other West European countries. The gas pipeline was built to ensure the supplies of a total 40,000 million cubic metres of gas every year to Western Europe, and the contracts embrace a period of 25 years.

A crushing strike was hit on the notorious policy of "sanctions" which became an inseparable element of the U.S. aggressive imperialist strategy. The Reagan administration undertook all sorts of ventures in a bid to thwart the construction of the gase pipeline, the so-called "gas-pipes" deal, which got the name of "the deal of the century." Initially (that was at the end of 1981) the White House placed a ban on American firms' deliveries of equipment for the construction of the gas pipeline. Then, on June 18, 1982 President Reagan unilaterally announced embargo on deliveries to the Soviet Union of energy generating equipment and components, manufactured by subsidiaries of American companies abroad or by foreign enterprises by American licenses.

That insolent act on the part of Washington, which flouts the sovereign right of West European states to conduct trade with whoever they want to, the elementary norms of international law has been stormily protested in West European capital cities. The steps of the Reagan administration were viewed there as an attempt to introduce a sort of "zero option" for Western Europe towards trade with the USSR and other socialist countries, so as to weaken its economy and to place it under strikes of the American rival and deprive it of reliable and advantageous markets. The market of the USSR and other CMEA member countries became for EEC states a market for industrial equipment, the biggest after the United States.

The lot of many enterprises in such West European industries as manufacture of pipes, compressors, complete sets of equipment for chemical enterprises and a number of other industries, depends on large-scale orders which come from socialist states. Orders from socialist countries provide employment in Western Europe to almost 3 million people. The gas pipeline ensures reliable energy deliveries to Western Europe.

It is no wonder that countries of the old continent refused to bow to the American diktat. Five months later, the Reagan administration had to admit that its embargo was a disgraceful failure and to cancel it. The sabotage of the U.S. Government failed to reach the planned goal. The pipe line was built ahead of schedule. The termination of American and Japanese deliveries did not in actual fact affect the pace of construction. The mighty economic and technical potential of the USSR enabled to establish, ahead of the planned dates, the manufacture of Soviet-made compressors, pipelayers and other equipment. All that did not inflict damage upon the Soviet economy but strengthened it and revealed new possibioities. American and Japanese firms meanwhile sustained great losses.

The commissioning of the Siberia-Western Europe gas pipeline is also a strike on the American policy of aggravating international tension, a step in favor of development of mutually beneficial East-West economic cooperation in the interests of consolidation of peace.

ITALIAN CP LEADER ASSAILS ARMS RACE, DEPLOYMENT

LD311131 Moscow TASS in English 1117 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Text] Rome December 31 TASS -- Enrico Berlinguer, general secretary of the Italian Communist Party, voiced serious worry over the aggravation of the international situation. He stressed in his New Year message that "the threat of the outbreak of war has aggravated" in the outgoing year. At the same time, the movement of the mass of people against the arms race has grown considerably more active. Many governments, different organisations and scientists have joined it. The further expansion of the composition of the peace movement and its continuity, the message points out, predetermines to a large extent the possibility of curbing the arms race and settling the existing conflicts by peaceful means, with due respect for the independence and rights of all the peoples.

The general secretary of the Italian Communist Party stressed that at present the party was beginning a mass campaign to collect signatures under an appeal of the National Coordinating Committee for Peace, which demanded that the construction of a new NATO nuclear base in Comiso, Sicily, for 112 U.S. cruise missiles be stopped and that a national referendum be called in Italy on the deployment of new U.S. medium-range nuclear missiles in the country.

In addition, the Italian communists, Enrico Berlinguer noted, are opposed to the presence of the Italian troop contingent in Lebanon as a part of the "multinational force". The general secretary strongly criticised the economic policy of the government led by the Socialist Craxi. He said, in particular, that all the measures taken by the cabinet under its "austerity policy" pursued the sole objective of hitting the living standards of the working people and the poorer strata of the population.

PORTUGUESE PRESIDENT SEES DIFFICULTIES IN 1984

LD020715 Moscow TASS in English 0702 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Text] Lisbon January 2 TASS -- Portugal is in for great economic difficulties in the new year, said President of the Republic Antonio Dos Santos Ramalho Eanes.

In the new year message to the country he expressed concern over the fact that the main burden of social problems such as unemployment and the cost of living is on the shoulders of the least well-off strata of the population. The president admitted that the hopes of rank-and-file Portuguese for a better future after the victory of democratic revolution in 1974 have so far failed to materialize.

KOIVISTO LAUDS USSR-FINNISH RELATIONS, FRIENDSHIP

LD011855 Moscow TASS in English 1837 GMT 1 Jan 84

[Text] Helsinki January 1 TASS -- Speaking over the radio and television today, Mauno Koivisto, president of the Republic of Finland, expressed high appreciation of the Soviet-Finnish relations. The head of the Republic of Finland described the extension of the Soviet-Finnish treaty on friendship, cooperation and mutual assistance for a term of 20 years as the most important event of the past year.

M. Koivisto stressed the importance of the resolution adopted by the Madrid meeting of representatives of the states -- participants in the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, which deals with convening in January this year of a conference in Stockholm on measures aimed at building confidence and security, as well as on disarmament in Europe. He underlined that international climate could be improved only on the basis of building mutual confidence between the states. The relations between Finland and its neighbors, as well as other countries, have been formed and will continue to be formed on the basis of mutual confidence, which is especially important in the present-day complicated international situation, M. Koivisto pointed out.

CIA ATTEMPTS 'TO COMPROMISE' SWEDEN'S PALME HIT

LD030949 Moscow TASS in English 0758 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] Stockholm January 3 TASS -- TASS correspondent Nikolay Vukolov reports: Cynically flouting international standards, the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency shadows many prominent foreign politicians, including Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme, the newspaper NYA KVAELLSPRESSEN reported. Quoting sources in government circles, it said that the U.S. espionage agency illegally wiretapped a telephone conversation between Palme and Anders Ferm, Sweden's ambassador to the United Nations. C.I.A. officers made excerpts from that recorded conversation available to the extremely conservative Swedish paper SVENSKA DAGBLADET of the Moderate Coalition Party. NYA KVAELLPRESSEN said this was done to compromise Palme and "shake trust in the prime minister, which is wanted by both the C.I.A. and the leadership of the conservatives".

This is not the only fact indicating the C.I.A.'s keen interest in the Swedish prime minister, which was reported way back in the beginning of last year by the newspaper EXPRESSEN. Late in the 1960s, it wrote, Sweden was swept by a massive wave of protests against the U.S. criminal war in Vietnam. Palme, who was education minister then, also took part in those demonstrations, which irritated Washington sharply. It was at that time that the C.I.A. assigned an agent to spy on Palme and collect information concerning the Swedish statesman's views.

FRG'S STRAUSS ATTACKED FOR REMARKS ON GRENADA

LD301622 Moscow TASS in English 1607 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Text] Moscow December 30 TASS -- TASS political news analyst Vladimir Aleksandrov writes:

Leader of the West German ultra-right, Bavarian prime minister Franz-Josef Strauss who recently visited Grenada intends upon returning to Europe to tell the "truth" about the U.S. invasion of the island. The Bavarian politician makes no secret as to what kind of "truth" he will tell the Western Europeans about the intervention of U.S. "Rangers" armed to the teeth into a small sovereign state in the Caribbean. In a conversation with head of the Grenadian puppet administration Nicholas Braithwaite he expressed complete support for the United States' "rescue operation" in Grenada and promised to make a call to the EEC countries to help the pro-American authorities of the island.

But what kind of "rescue operation" can there be when it is known to the whole world that American citizens in Grenada were not threatened and that the lie about the danger to Americans was merely a pretext for the occupation of an actually defenceless island by the biggest Western power. Contrary to what is alleged by Strauss he is concerned not at all about the "economic prosperity" and "stability" of Grenada. He wishes that island to be turned into another place d'armes of the United States which is preparing an intervention against independent Nicaragua and is striving to suppress the national liberation movement in Central America. Strauss has no intention to tell the truth about the events in Grenada. He wishes to try to justify by means of false arguments the international brigandage, the flouting of all norms of international law by the United States, the arbitrariness, outrages and bloody reprisals that are perpetrated by the United States in Grenada, the turning of that island into a colonial appendage of the United States.

The Christmas voyage of the leader of the West German ultra-right to the southern seas also has another aspect related to the home policy. As is known, the FRG Government taking into consideration a sharply negative reaction in the whole world, also in the United Nations, at Washington's piratic action, at first mildly rebuked Washington for it. But even this restrained criticism caused Strauss's indignation. He expressed displeasure over the fact that Bonn had not consulted him on the matter. He believes that the United States' armed intervention should have been approved wholly and unconditionally.

The 68-year-old Bavarian politician who has not lost his ambitions so far, has been looking of late for any pretext to emphasize his claims to exerting a greater influence on the shaping of Bonn's home and foreign policy. He would like to play a still more influential role on Bonn's political scene. And so he is prepared to go any lengths not stopping at expressing support for a piratic illegal actions of the U.S. military against a sovereign state.

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS CONGRATULATES TURKEY'S OZAL

PM281155 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 27 Dec 83 Morning Edition p 2

[TASS report entitled: "Exchange of Telegrams"]

[Text] The USSR Council of Ministers has sent a telegram to Prime Minister of the Turkish Republic Turgut Ozal conveying congratulations and best wishes in connection with his appointment to this lofty post.

In a telegram of reply, Ozal expressed gratitude to the USSR Council of Ministers for the congratulations and good wishes. The telegrams express the hope that the relations of good neighborliness and mutually advantageous cooperation between the Soveit Union and Turkey will continue to develop in the interests of both countries of the consolidation of peace.

TUDEH ACTIVISTS TRIAL 'SLANDER' AGAINST USSR

PM302106 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 31 Dec 83 p 5

[Article by Konstantin Vitalyev entitled: "Who Needs This?"]

[Text] The trial of patriotic officers (the so-called "secret Tudeh organization") and of some activist members of the Tudeh Party of Iran is going on at the tribunal of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran. From the viewpoint of domestic policy, this trial apparently is an attempt to get some "material" for the trial that is being prepared of the leading Tudeh officials who were seized early in 1983. It appears that despite the terrible torture and brainwashing to which the detainees have been subjected, the organizers of the trial do not have facts at their disposal that could back up the absurd charges made against the Tudeh Party.

The tribunal is characteristic of the atmosphere that is being generated in Iran. A state of spy mania, of physical and moral terror is being whipped up in every way. The extreme right-wing circles in Tehran are busy searching for a pretext that would worsen Soviet-Iranian relations. Yet another provocation is being staged and Iran's judiciary has been chosen this time to serve as its instrument. An attempt is being made to accuse the defendants of taking part in the espionage collection of military and political material on Iran that was supposedly then handed over by the Tudeh Party...to the Soviet Union.

The untenability of such contentions is obvious. Neither the Tudeh Party of Iran nor any other political organization has supplied the USSR with any espionage military "information." Such methods are altogether alien to communist parties, to the communist movement by its very essence.

Charges against communists of espionage for the USSR are a "traditonal" weapon in the arsenal of imperialist reaction which realizes that the strength of communists lies in their selfless service to their people. The imperialist reaction regards attempts to sow doubt in the masses about the patriotism of communists, to portray them as people supposedly serving a "foreign power" as one method, along with terror and repressions, of undermining the positions of communist parties, of eroding the faith of working people in communists who are not stinting either effort or their very lives to ensure the freedom and happiness of peoples. The circles that have organized the present judicial farce in Tehran have been incapable of inventing anything more original than resorting to this long discredited method. But that is only one aspect of the matter.

The trial in the Iranian capital is being conducted as yet another link in the chain of provocations against the Soviet Union that are being constantly organized by the Western special services and primarily by the U.S. CIA. This trial on trumped-up charges is a component part of the "crusade" organized by the Washington administration against socialism, against all progressive, democratic forces in the world. In its attempts to impart an all-out nature to its "crusade" the Reagan administration is using all the means at its disposal.

Certain forces in Iran as well have joined those who are pulling the chariot of this "crusade." They are not deterred by the indisputable fact that this merging of forces contradicts the cardinal interests of the Iranian people for U.S. imperialism has not given up its attempts to undermine the positions of the regime existing in Iran by any means and still hopes to bring Iran back under its rule.

In their efforts, the forces of reaction across the ocean have acquired zealous associates in the ultra right-wing movement in Iran. The reactionary groups that oppose the implementation of the social and economic reforms which were expected by the popular masses after the anti-monarchist revolution of 1979, are doing everything to destroy the fruit of this revolution. The "ultras" are trying to draw the ruling regime onto the path of blind fanaticism, of totally eliminating democratic freedoms, and of rolling the country back to the times of the cruel arbitrariness that was characteristic of the monarchy's despotism.

The campaign against the Tudeh Party is explained by the fact that reaction sees this party as a force which comes out courageously and consistently for Iran's real independence and progress. The Tudeh Party paid for the dawn of genuine freedom to begin over Iran with the lives of thousands of its best sons.

Now an attempt is being made to eliminate this dawn and the axe of the executioner again is being raised over the party of true patriots. It was admitted by Iran's procurator general that already more than 8500 members of the Tudeh Party of Iran had been arrested by the middle of 1983. The present judicial farce at the military tribunal is yet another step on the road to achieving the cherished aim of the extreme reactionaries -- the "destruction" of the communist movement in the country. All this is taking place after a revolution which won under the slogan "independence, freedom, and social justice..."

The fanning of anticommunist hysteria is being accompanied by an intensification of the anti-Soviet campaign. At a session of the tribunal, impermissible fabrications about the USSR were uttered by officials, including the chairman of the court and the prosecutor. The obvious aim of the organized anti-Soviet propaganda clamor is to develop feelings of hostility toward the Soviet Union among the Iranian people.

Such efforts cannot but evoke the protest of the Soviet people. The Soviet side has not provided any pretext whatsoever for actions contradicting the interests of Iran to be ascribed to it. The USSR has not sought and is not seeking any special rights or privileges in Iran for itself. Noninterference in internal affairs, respect for sovereignty and independence, development of friendship and goodneighborliness -- these are the unchanging principles of the USSR's policy toward Iran.

One of the aims of the judicial farce in Tehran is to create a pretext for inflicting damage on other current revolutionary anti-imperialist movements as well. Certain circles in Tehran in practical terms have joined the pursuit of the malicious slanderous campaign started by the Washington administration with the aim of making the gullible believe that, by allegedly making use of communist organizations, the USSR strives to turn the armed forces of developing countries into a sort of "instrument" of interference in the internal affairs of others.

Since there are no facts whatsoever, they are being fabricated. No scruples are being shown in the choice of means. It is obvious to every clear-thinking person that such allegations are totally groundless. Quite naturally, such acts of political subversion cause the legitimate indignation of the Soviet people, communists, and of all those who treasure the cause of the freedom of peoples.

The Iranian leadership is well aware of the USSR's true attitude toward Iran, a neighboring state that has a common border of 2500 kilometers with our country. The USSR does not have the slightest intention of worsening relations with its southern neighbor, On the contrary, everything necessary is being done for these relations to develop in the interests of peace and for the mutual benefit of both sides.

That is why Soviet people expect the dirty and totally groundless campaign of slander against the USSR to be stopped by the appropriate forces in Iran. Otherwise, the entire responsibility will rest with the guiding circles of that country.

SOVIET ACCORDS WITH SYRIA, UGANDA RATIFIED

PM301257 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 30 Dec 83 Morning Edition p 7

[TASS report: "Ratification of Agreements"]

[Text] By a decree dated 27 December the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium has ratified:

The agreement between the Government of the USSR and the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic on cooperation in the field of the utilization of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes signed in Moscow 1 February 1983, and the agreement between the Government of the USSR and the Government of the Republic of Uganada on economic and technical cooperation signed in Moscow 19 August 1983.

FRENCH TROOPS TRANSFER TO UN FORCE IN LEBANON

LD021648 Moscow TASS in English 1554 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Text] Paris January 2 TASS -- The French Government has decided to curtail the French contingent of the so-called "Multinational Force" deployed in Lebanon. According to a joint statement of the Ministry of National Defense and of the Ministry of External Relations that was circulated here, about 500 French officers and men will be removed from the "Multinational Force" and put under the command of the U.N. contingent staying in Lebanon.

Earlier these 500 French servicemen were part of the U.N. contingent. However, in September 1982 France dispatched them to Beirut where they were included in the French contingent of the "Multinational Force" whose strength is about 1,750 today.

ISRAELI AIRCRAFT BOMB LEBANESE FORCES IN BHAMDUN

LD030955 Moscow TASS in English 0929 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] Beirut January 3 TASS -- Israeli aircraft of "Kfir" type this morning bombed the position of the Lebanese National-Patriotic Forces (NPF) in the area of the populated locality of Bhamdun.

Lebanese radio has reported that the NPF anti-aircraft gunners opened fire at the Israeli aircraft.

MILITARY COUP IN NIGERIA BRINGS BUHARI TO POWER

LD010919 Moscow TASS in English 0812 GMT 1 Jan 84

[Text] Cotonou January 1 TASS -- As was reported by Radio Lagos, Major-General Muhammadu Buhari, former minister of housing construction and the environment of Nigeria, has become the head of state and commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces as a result of a military coup in that country. He said in his address to the nation that the servicemen had seized power in order to "save the country from disintegration and economic collapse."

According to news services Nigeria's frontiers with neighbouring states remain sealed. A curfew is in force in Lagos. Telex and telephone communications with the outside world have been cut off.

Airport Closed

LD311245 Moscow TASS in English 1225 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Text] London December 31 TASS -- REUTER reports, quoting Radio Lagos, that a military coup was carried out in Nigeria last night. A military government came to power in the country. The leaders of the coup pointed out in a broadcast message that the coup had been caused by the dramatic aggravation of the economic situation of the country.

The international airport of Lagos is now closed and the main lines of communication with Nigeria interrupted.

Economic Reasons Cited

PM031043 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 2 Jan 84 First Edition p 5

[TASS report: "The Coup in Nigeria"]

[Text] London, 1 Jan -- As a result of the military coup in Nigeria which took place on the night of 30-31 December, Major General Muhammad Buhari, former minister of housing and environment, has become Nigerian head of state and commander in chief of the country's Armed Forces, REUTERS reports from Lagos.

In an address to the nation, the new head of state said that the constitution has been suspended. The Nigerian Armed Forces, he said, have proclaimed the creation of a federal military government incorporating a supreme military council and a federal council of states. Executive councils controlled by military governors have also been formed in all states. Their activity is directed by the federal executive council.

The military took power, Muhammad Buhari stressed, in order to "lead the country out of serious economic difficulties." The federal military government, he said, will make the necessary efforts to improve economic management, eliminate the balance of payments deficit, substantially reduce nonproductive spending, and improve the situation of the working people's masses.

As is known, in recent years Nigeria has undergone a serious recession caused by the world economic crisis. Its many years of dependence on oil as the main source of currency revenue has affected the country particularly. As a result of this the state's income has fallen, exports have dropped sharply, and the foreign debt has increased.

The Nigerian head of state stressed that in the foreign policy sphere the federal military government will maintain and strengthen existing diplomatic relations with other states and international organizations, inlcuding the United Nations and the OAU. The provisions of agreements and treaties concluded by the previous government will also be respected and observed.

USSR, BENIN LEADERS EXCHANGE TELEGRAMS

PM022024 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 30 Dec 83 First Edition p 2

[TASS report: "Cordial Greetings"]

[Text] The CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium have sent Mathieu Kerekou, chairman of the Benin People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee and president of the People's Republic of Benin, a telegram conveying on behalf of the Soviet people cordial congratulations to the president, the Benin People's Revolutionary Party, and the friendly Beninese people on the country's national holiday, together with wishes for further successes in resolving the tasks facing the country of economic and social development along the path of building a new society. People in the Soviet Union, the telegram says, view with great sympathy the struggle of the People's Republic of Benin against imperialism, for the complete liberation and rallying of African peoples, and for lasting peace all over the world.

In a reply telegram to the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, M. Kerekou expressed sincere thanks for the congratulations and good wishes.

The telegrams express confidence that the relations of friendship and multifaceted cooperation prevailing between the Soviet Union and the People's Republic of Benin will continue to develop to the benefit of both countries' peoples.

RYZHOV RECEIVES CAMEROON AMBASSADOR DONTSOP

PM291513 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Dec 83 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report under the Rubric "Official Reports"]

[Text] On 22 December N.S. Ryzhov, USSR deputy foreign minister, received Paul Dontsop, ambassador of the United Republic of Cameroon to the USSR, in connection with his upcoming presentation of credentials.

ARKHIPOV ADDRESSES CUBAN ANNIVERSARY MEETING

PM301143 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 30 Dec 83 First Edition p 6

[TASS report: "Following the Path of Peace and Progress"]

[Text] The Cuban revolution was a vivid page in the annals of the world revolutionary process begun by the Great October Socialist Revolution. This was noted at a ceremonial meeting of representatives of the Moscow public devoted to the revolution's 25th anniversary. It was held 29 December in the Hall of Columns of the House of the Union.

In the presidium were G.V. Romanov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; K.V. Rusakov, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; I.G. Gilashvili, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium; leaders of a number of ministries and departments; and representatives of party, soviet, and public organizations.

The keynote speaker -- I.V. Arkhipov, first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers -- said that the revolution on Cuba provided yet further vivid evidence of the great force of the laws of social development and of the triumph of the international revolutionary process. It convincingly demonstrated that in our time, given the change in the correlation of forces in socialism's favor in the world, the people of even a small semicolonial country can achieve complete national liberation and implement fundamental socioeconomic transformations.

Having gained real freedom and independence, the Cuban people have directed their efforts toward the fulfillment of creative tasks. During the years of people's power a tremendous amount of work has been done to create the material and technical base of socialism. The island of freedom's successes in all spheres of social life -- successes achieved in conditions of incessant intrigues on the part of imperialism, primarily U.S. imperialism -- are inseparably linked with the activity of the Cuban Communist Party and its leadership headed by Comrade F. Castro.

The speaker stressed that the fraternal relations between the USSR and Cuba are based on common Marxist-Leninist ideas and are characterized by unity of views on the topical problems of the age.

I. Soto, Cuban ambassador to the USSR, said that the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries rendered his country political support from the first day of the victory of the Cuban revolution and subsequently supplemented this with all-embracing economic assistance. Following Lenin's behest, the CPSU and the Soviet people have always set examples of real internationalism.

Speaking about international problems, the ambassador stressed that the Cuban Communist Party and the entire people of the island of freedom warmly support Comrade Yu.V. Andropov's statement.

CUBAN ENVOY PRESENTS CREDENTIALS TO KUZNETSOV

PM291509 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 29 Dec 83 First Edition p 7

[TASS Report: "Credentials Presented"]

[Text] Lionel Soto, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Republic of Cuba, presented his credentials in the Kremlin on 28 December to V.V. Kuznetsov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

Presenting his credentials, L. Soto stressed that in the 25 years which have elapsed since the victory of the Cuban revolution, the peoples, parties, and governments of Cuba and the USSR have established relations of fraternal friendship. Cuba is a firm, integral link in the socialist community and an active participant in CEMA. The ambassador noted the decisive significance for Cuba of the Soviet Union's internationalist support and tremendous economic assistance.

In his reply speech V.V. Kuznetsov noted that the two countries' cooperation in various spheres has reached a high level and continues to develop successfully. The durability of the fraternal relations between the Soviet Union and Cuba and their further steady development are ensured by the constant strengthening of ties between the CPSU and the Communist Party of Cuba.

After the presentation of credentials and the exchange of speeches between V.V. Kuznetsov and L. Soto, a talk took place in a cordial, comradely atmosphere. Taking party were T.N. Menteshashvili, secretary of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and G.M. Korniyenko, USSR first deputy foreign minister.

NICARAGUA REPORTS 'FIERCE' BORDER CLASHES

LD030944 Moscow TASS in English 0735 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] Managua January 3 TASS -- The Nicaraguan Ministry of Defence has reported here that the fighting-men of the Sandinista People's Army, destroyed more than 120 counter-revolutionaries in the first days of 1984 during fierce clashes in Jinotega and Nueva Segovia Departments. Due to successful actions of Nicaraguan troops, attempts by Somozistas to capture any of the populated localities on the border between Nicaragua and Honduras have been foiled. The counter-revolutionary rabble, in accordance with the CIA's designs, has more than once already sought to place part if Nicaraguan territory under its control in order to create a pro-American puppet government there and to ask for military aid from the USA and reactionary regimes of the region.

The ministry's report also points out that U.S. hirelings made a criminal air raid on the port city of Sandino. The port did not sustain serious damages as a result of the bombing raid. Several kilometres away from Sandino, Nicaraguan ships were subjected to a bandit attack by enemy gunboats. One Nicaraguan seaman died under enemy fire. The aggressors' actions were supported by an unidentified combatants ship of large displacement, the ministry's statement stresses.

U.S. ADVISERS SAID 'CAPTURED' IN EL SALVADOR

LD310816 Moscow TASS in English 0712 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Text] Managua December 31 TASS -- On the eve of the new year the Salvadorean patriots carried out one of the most daring operations since the beginning of the armed struggle against the dictatorial regime. At dawn they attacked and captured the army barracks of the Fourth Infantry Brigade of the Government Army stationed in the north of Chalatenango Department, A shooting range for the training of select battalions of the Salvadoran Army is also located there. In all, 2,500 soldiers, national guardsmen and policemen were stationed at the centre. They did not withstand the patriots' strike and retreated.

Judging by some reports, according to the NOTISAL news agency, several American military advisers who trained Salvadoran punitive troops were captured by the guerrillas.

'REPRESSIONS, TERROR' REPORTED IN GRENADA

LD021415 Moscow TASS in English 1345 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Text] Moscow January 2 TASS -- TASS commentator Sergey Kudryavskiy writes:

Terror and lawlessness are the distinctive features of the regime in Grenada, which was implanted by the American military. As is reported by the newspaper THE NEW YORK TIMES, more than 30 members of the leadership of the former Maurice Bishop revolutionary government are kept in jail without trial or investigation. Some of them have been in detention for the third month. Hundreds of Grenadian patriots have been put behind prison bars, according to the press, and what happened to them is still unknown.

No charges were levelled against any of the arrested persons. The prisoners, according to the Jamaican advocate Brown, are subjected to tortures with electric current, they are beaten and kept in horrible conditions. President Reagan, having said "O.K." to the invasion of Grenada, asserted that the U.S. "liberatory" mission was received with approval by the Grenadian people. It is impossible to imagine a lie, more monstrous than that.

American soldiers, having suppressed the revolution in Grenada, trampled under foot all civilian rights and liberties of the residents of that insular state. Patriots are being persecuted till this day, and, if one is to judge by statements of the puppet regime, repressions against the Grenadian people are to largely heighten in the near future. Grenada has now been practically turned into a concentration camp, with the American military implanting the order, suitable to Washington. The invasion of Grenada has turned to be a real tragedy for the local population.

MATERIALS ON 28-29 DEC SUPREME SOVIET SESSION

'Information Report'

PM301507 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 30 Dec 83 Morning Edition pp 1, 7

[Unattributed "Information Report on USSR Supreme Soviet Sittings"]

[Text] The 9th session of the USSR Supreme Soviet, 10th Convocation, continued its work in the Kremlin 29 December.

At 1000 the second session of the Soviet of Nationalities was held in the Hall of the USSR Supreme Soviet chambers under the chairmanship of V.P. Ruben, chairman of the Soviet of Nationalities.

Discussion continued of the reports of the State Plan for the Economic and Social Development of the USSR for 1984 and the fulfillment of the State Plan for the Economic and Social Development of the USSR in 1983 and on the USSR State Budget for the 1984 and the implementation of the USSR State Budget in 1982.

The following deputies spoke in the debates: V.V. Nikitin (Yamalo-Nenetskiy electoral okrug), G.R. Abuzarov (Zheleznodorozhnyy electoral okrug, Bashkir ASSR), K.K. Rebane (Tartu Ropaskiy electoral okrug, Estonian SSR), and T. Ziyeyev (Kurgan-Tyubinskiy electoral okrug, Tajik SSR).

With this the Soviet of Nationalities concluded its debates on the first two items on the session agenda.

At 1000 the second sitting of the Soviet of the Union was held in the Great Kremlin Palace under the chairmanship of A.P. Shitikov, chairman of the Soviet of the Union.

Discussion continued of the reports on the State Plan for the Economic and Social Development of the USSR for 1984 and the fulfillment of the State Plan for the Economic and Social Development of the USSR in 1983 and on the USSR State Budget for 1984 and the implementation of the USSR State Budget in 1982.

The following deputies spoke in the debates: B. Yazkuliyev (Tashauzskiy electoral okrug, Turkmen SSR), P.I. Tretyakov (Yuzhno-Sakhalinskiy electoral okrug, Sakhalin Oblast), N.A. Logachev, (Irkutskiy electoral okrug, Irkutsk Oblast), N.F. Shishkin (Iskitimskiy electoral okrug, Novosibirsk Oblast), K. Makhkamov (Dushanbinskiy electoral okrug, Tajik SSR), and B.P. Okonechnikov (Maloyaroslavetskiy electoral okrug, Kaluga Oblast).

With this the Soviet of the Union concluded its debates on the first two questions on the session agenda.

At 1200 the second joint session of the Soviet of the Union and Soviet of Nationalities took place in the Great Kremlin Palace under the chairmanship of A.P. Shitikov, chairman of the Soviet of the Union.

A closing speech on the question of the State Plan for the Economic and Social Development of the USSR for 1984 and the fulfillment of the State Plan for the Economic and Social Development of the USSR in 1983 was delivered by deputy N.K. Baybakov, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the USSR Gosplan.

The USSR Supreme Soviet adopted a law on the State Plan for the Economic and Social Development of the USSR for 1984 taking into account the amendments of the Plan and Budget and other standing commissions of the Soviet of the Union and Soviet of Nationalities and also adopted a resolution on the fulfillment of the State Plan for the Economic and Social Development of the USSR for 1983.

A concluding speech on the question of the USSR State Budget for 1984 and the implementation of the USSR State Budget in 1982 was delivered by Deputy V. F. Garbuzov, USSR finance minister.

The USSR Supreme Soviet approved the USSR State Budget for 1984, adopted a law on the USSR State Budget for 1984 taking into account the amendments of the plan and budget and other standing commissions of the chambers, and also adopted a resolution approving the report on the implementation of the USSR State Budget in 1982.

The USSR Supreme Soviet heard a report from B.N. Ponomarev, chairman of the Soviet of Nationalities Foreign Affairs Commission, and unanimously adopted a USSR Supreme Soviet resolution "On the International Situation and the Foreign Policy of the Soviet State" prepared on the instructions of the USSR Supreme Soviet chambers' Foreign Affairs Commissions.

The USSR Supreme Soviet then heard a report by T.N. Menteshasvili, secretary of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, on presidium decrees submitted for ratification by the USSR Supreme Soviet andadopted corresponding laws and resolutions.

With this the 9th session of the USSR Supreme Soviet, 10th convocation, completed its work.

Maslov Delivers 'Coreport'

PM301526 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 30 Dec 83 Morning Edition pp 4-5

[Coreport of the Plan and Budget Commission and other standing commissions of the Soviet of the Union delivered by V.A. Masol, chairman of the Plan and Budget Commission, at the 28 December 1983 afternoon session of the Soviet of the Union]

[Text] Esteemed comrade deputies! The State Plan for the Economic and Social Development of the USSR for 1984 and the 1984 State Budget, which set the tasks, rates, and proportions for the development of the country's national economy and the ways to further enhance its efficiency, have been submitted for discussion by the current USSR Supreme Soviet session.

The outgoing third year of the 11th 5-Year Plan has been marked by new achievements by the Soviet people in all spheres of public life. We can now clearly sense the great mobilizing influence exerted on the progress in implementing the 26th party congress decisions of the CPSU Central Committee November (1982) and June (1983) Plenums. Enterprises, construction sites, organizations, kolkhozes, and sovkhozes have started making fuller use of intensive factors of growth and internal reserves, organization and discipline have improve, and labor collectives are completing the fulfillment of plan targets and the socialist pledges they have adopted.

The CPSU Central Committee plenum held on the eve of the session examined and basically approved the 1984 State Plan and State Budget. In his profoundly meaningful plenum statement, Comrade Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, analyzed the results of the constructive work being done by the party and the people in the current 5-year plan, clearly defined the key problems in the development of the national economy, and emphasized the need to significantly step up work to improve economic leadership.

The plenum decisions require each labor collective to work with a sense of high responsibility and total dedication of strength and energy and to utilize efficiently the production, scientific, and technical potential that has been created. This is the guarantee of the successful implementation of all our plans.

The reports by Comrades N.K. Baybakov and V.F. Garbuzov make it clear that the growth rates of social production and labor productivity increased during the current year in comparison with the average annual indicators for the 5-year plan's first 2 years. The plan for the total volume of industrial output is expected to be overfulfilled. Industrial output growth in 1983 will reach 4 percent as compared to the 3.2 percent in accordance with the annual plan. Labor productivity will increase 3.4 percent and will account for 85 percent of industrial output growth. The sectors which determine scientific and technical progress are developing steadily. There has been something of an improvement in the state of affairs in capital construction and transportation.

The fast rate of construction of the Baykal-Amur railroad and the construction and commissioning of the unique Urengoy-Pomary-Uzhgorod gas pipeline within a time period unprecedented in world practice are just one proof of our economy's increased potential.

Thanks to the efforts of the party and the people, definite results have been achieved in the implementation of the Food Program. The material and technical base of agriculture is being consolidated. Procurements of grain, potatoes, sugar beet, vegetables, and fruit have increase in comparison with last year. The majority of union republics and a considerable number of oblasts, krays, and autonomous republics successfully coped with their procurement plans for livestock products and a number of other most important types of agricultural produce.

It is necessary, as the CPSU Central Committee demands, to consolidate the positive trends which have emerged in the national economy and to eliminate the shortcomings and difficulties holding back the economy's progress.

Achieving this means expanding the opportunities for resolving the social tasks, and this is the main thing that guides the party in its economic policy. The population's real incomes increased in 1983 and there was large-scale construction of housing and of social and cultural projects. Persistent work is being done to increase the output of consumer goods, expand their range, and improve their quality.

We are all well aware that our socioeconomic achievements strengthen the Soviet state's international position and help preserve peace and the peoples' security.

Comrade deputies! The Plan and Budget Commissions and the other standing commissions of the Soviet of the Union and the Soviet of Nationalities have comprehensively examined the State Plan for Economic and Social Development of the USSR for 1984 and consider that the plan targets as a whole are in line with the CPSU's economic strategy at the present stage.

The plan envisages stable economic growth, an increase in the role played by intensive factors and more efficient utilization of production poetntial and all types of allocated resources. Special emphasis has been placed on accelerating the introduction of the achievements of science and technology into production. Each republic will make a greater contribution to the fulfillment of statewide tasks.

The plan's social orientation is being intensified. It is planned to further raise the population's real income. Retail trade turnover in state and cooperative trade in terms of actual prices will increase by R16.5 billion in comparison with 1983 and will reach R322.5 billion.

The present stage of our country's economic development is distinguished by the economy's transition to an intensive path of development and the greater utilization of internal opportunities and reserves within national economic sectors, primarily the basic sectors.

On this basis, the standing commissions devoted much attention to analyzing the Energy Program's implementation. The 1984 plan envisages an increase in the production of the basic types of fuel and energy resources and their rational utilization. At the same time, a certain strain will remain in regard to meeting the national economy's requirements. Under these circumstances, the ministries within the fuel and energy complex must persistently increase the volume of fuel extraction and expedite the commissioning of capacities, especially AESes and power stations operating on the cheap coal produced by the Ekibastuz and Kransk-Achinsk coalfields.

It must be emphasized that, in a number of national economic sectors, the state of work regarding the economic and thrifty consumption of fuel and energy resources is still not what it should be. Enterprises of the USSR Ministry of Ferrous Metallurgy, the USSR Ministry of the Coal Industry, the Ministry of the Petroleum Industry, and the USSR Ministry of Power and Electrification permitted a large overexpenditure of some types of fuel and energy resources in the current year. Secondary energy resources are still underutilized and losses of casinghead gas are not being reduced.

Fulfillment of the targets for reducing consumption of petroleum products is not being ensured. Instead of saving them, many industrial and agricultural enterprises tolerate their overconsumption in excess of the set norms. Some petroleum products are being squandered or written off illegally, and there are instances of irregular or incomplete deliveries to some consumers.. There are large reserves of fuel savings in transportation. Ministries and departments must tighten up their control and resolutely put a stop to instances of economic mismanagement. Work on adapting motor vehicles to gas fuel must be stepped up. The USSR Ministry of Power and Electrification must speed up the construction of gas distribution networks to power stations.

An analysis of the results of the development of the country's economy in the period of the 5-year plan that has elapsed shows that work in many sectors of the national economy is being held back due to metal shortages. During the current year many enterprises in the USSR Ministry of Ferrous Metallurgy failed to fulfill their plans for supplies of output in line with contracts and orders.

There is a considerable shortage in supplies to the national economy of rolled metal from low-alloy types of steel, heat-strengthened rolled metal, hot-rolled and cold-rolled thin-sheet rolled metal, and metal products with protective coatings. In the current year alone there will be a shortage in supplies to consumers of almost 1 million metric tons of efficient rolled metal sections, which is causing increased costs and nonfulfillment of metal saving targets.

The Ministry of Ferrous Metallurgy must take steps to fulfill the output sales plans taking contractual obligations into account, better ensure an improvement in the quality and range of metal products, and raise manufacturing and executive discipline.

While justly criticizing the metallurgical workers for omissions in their work, it must be noted that the USSR Gossnab is lax in monitoring the output of economical types of metal products. There are instances when the orders placed for them are lower than the targets set by the plan. Such phenomena must not be permitted in economic practice, and shortcomings in deliveries planning must be eliminated.

As envisaged by the CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers resolution "On Measures To Accelerate Scientific and Technical Progress in the National Economy," the scale of the introduction of new and highly efficient equipment and advanced technologies in production will be expanded in 1984.

A decisive contributuion to the retooling of economic sectors and, on this basis, to the acceleration of labor productivity growth rates, is to be made by machine building. The machine building ministries have improved their work during the current year. The volume and structure of production planned in 1984 for machines, instruments, equipment, and means of mechanization will make it possible to basically satisy the national economy's immediate requirements. All in all, it is planned to assimilate about 3,000 new types of machine-building products and discontinue the production of a considerable number of obsolete ones.

It has to be noted at the same time that the rates of retooling of national economic sectors, and primarily of machine building itself, are still below modern requirements. The targets for the development and introduction of waste-free and energy- and metal-saving technologies are being met only slowly. There is insufficient growth in the production of modern agricultural machines and also of the equipment necessary for the mechanization of load-handling, loading. unloading, and warehousing operations.

The machine-building ministries must take measures to fulfill the plans for assimilation of new equipment and devote special attention to the quality, reliability and durability of the machines, equipment, and instruments produced.

Work on producing small equipment and tools for the development of collective and personal subsidiary farms merits more attention. The Ministry of Tractor and Agricultural Machine Building must be more persistent in seeking ways to resolve this question.

The 1984 plan envisages the concentration of capital investments on projects scheduled for commissioning, the retooling and modernization of existing enterprises, and the limitation of new construction.

The total volume of capital investment in the national economy as a whole is planned at R149.6 billion. Special attention is given in the plan to the development of sectors which determine scientific and technical progress and sectors within the country's fuel and energy and agroindustrial complexes.

At the same time it is necessary to stress that the task of commissioning capacities on schedule and fully assimilating capital investments remains as topical as ever. This depends largely upon the quality of project estimate documentation, the standard of work of construction organizations, and the observance and improvement of a steady flow in construction work. At present about 60 percent of capacities being commissioned in fact fall within the fourth quarter.

Over the last three years the average completion time for production construction increased by more than six months, basically due to inadequate technological preparation.

The USSR Gosplan, the USSR Gosstroy, the construction ministries must examine this question in detail.

The progress in the construction of a number of enterprises and projects being built on the basis of completely imported equipment is unsatisfactory. Large stocks of such equipment can be found on construction sites of the USSR Ministry of Ferrous Metallurgy, the USSR Ministry of the Petroleum Refining and Petrochemical Industry, the Ministry of the Chemical Industry, and the Ministry of Mineral Fertilizer Production.

To this day, the USSR Gosplan, the appropriate ministries and departments and the union republic Councils of Ministers are failing to take adequate measures to implement the USSR Council of Ministers resolution on raising the technical standard of brick production.

In many of the country's regions there is also an insufficiently substantiated trend toward the mass use of precast ferroconcrete in the construction of rural projects for production, social, and cultural purposes. It is not borne in mind that the cost of similar projects built with bricks is lower. Estimates show that the use of 1 billion bricks in rural construction makes it possible to reduce metal expenditure by 100,000 metric tons and cement expenditure by almost 450,000 metric tons. The appropriate conclusions must be drawn from this, and there must be a fundamental change in attitutes toward local brick production.

The more rational utilization of production waste is of exceptionally great national economic significance. Unfortunately, the existing resources of secondary raw materials are far from fully utilized. For example, the yield of ash and cinder waste from TETes runs to 100 million metric tons a year and only about 10 million metric tons are utilized. Yet this waste is a good raw material for the production of construction materials, cement, and ferroconcrete and for road and industrial cosntruction. Extremely negligible use is made of coal dressing waste, and slag from metallurgical enterprises, timber processing waste, and waste textile raw materials and polymer materials are insufficiently involved in economic recycling.

USSR ministries and departments and union republic Councils of Ministers must concern themselves more energetically with the creation of capacities to involve all secondary resources in production.

The Plan and Budget Commissions and the other standing commissions of the chambers, having examined questions relating to the Food Program's implementation, note that in most rayons the agroindustrial associations are skillfully guiding the work of kolkhozes, sovkhozes, enterprises, and organizations. The measures taken to improve the management of agricultural production and the sectors linked with it are having a real effect on the practical results of their work and the acceleration of the social transformation of the countryside.

At the same time, the agroindustrial associations must devote greater attention to overcoming departmentalism in the work of some components of the agroindustrial complex, eliminating shortcomings in the utilization of its production potential, and improving the distribution of material and technical resources allocated to agriculture with a view to their rational utilization.

It was pointed out at the commissions' sessions that the ministries and departments belonging to the agroindustrial complex must devote more attention to accelerating scientific and technical progress in agriculture, increasing the efficiency of scientific research, and improving breeding and selection work and must step up their coordinating role in these questions.

Higher standards of leadership in agriculture depends to a large extent on the local soviets. Daily attention to the needs and concerns of agricultural production, support for everything that is advanced and progressive, help in regulating the business relations between all the partners in the agroindustrial complex, and at the same time strict and principled exactingness toward the new local management organs -- this must be the consistent position of each soviet of people's deputies.

The commissions examined in detail the development indicators for all types of transport. It was noted that, despite a certain improvement in the work of railroad transport, the national economy's requirements for the transportation of the most important freight -- cement, and a number of others -- were not fully satisfied in the current year.

The Ministry of Railways must ensure stable transport operations and precise cooperation between all its links, an increase in the reliability of rolling stock and track exploitation, the complete safety of freight being transported, the liquidation of losses and unproductive expenditure, and the elimination of shortcomings in passenger services.

Comrades! The CPSU Central Committee recently deemed it necessary to elaborate a comprehensive program for the development of consumer goods production and the system of services for the population. At the same time, USSR ministries and departments and union republic Councils of Ministers are required right away to seek ways to further increase consumer goods output, primarily as a result of more economical consumption of raw and other materials, fuller utilization of secondary and local resources, and a significant improvement in the utilization of existing capacities. You see, the trading organizations continue to experience difficulties in satisfying the population's needs for many goods.

The commissions leveled serious criticism at ministries for the extremely slow reorganization of work and the continuing manufacture of goods which are not in demand by the population. Despite the unsatisfied demand for leather footwear produced by light industry enterprises, the trade system was forced to decline the purchase of 1.3 million pairs of unmarketable models of footwear planned for production in 1984.

The production, and especially the variety, of light industry products are being negatively affected by the systematic short deliveries of chemical fibers and yarns, dyes, subsidiary agents used in textile production, and other materials by the Ministry of the Chemical Industry. The share of consumer goods in the total volume of production by a number of machine building ministries still remains low. Enterprises in these sectors also produce a considerable number of obsolete and poor quality items.

It must be emphasized that the successful fulfillment of next year's targets for the production of consumer goods and the development of the system of services depends largely on the initiative of ministries and departments, local soviets of people's deputies, enterprise and association collectives, and trade and consumer services organs.

Next year's plan devotes much attention to the further development of housing construction. The capital investments envisaged in it will ensure the commissioning of a total area of 109 million square meters of housing, which is considerably more than envisaged in the 5-year plan, and will include 39.5 million square meters in rural areas.

Ministries and departments, union republic Councils of Ministers, and local soviets of people's deputies must constantly monitor the assimilation of allocated capital investments channeled into the construction of housing and projects for social and cultural purposes and must ensure a smoother flow in commissioning them.

Special attention must be devoted to the question of fulfilling the planned targets for the further development of education, medical services, and culture.

An important economic experiment aimed at expanding the rights of production association and enterprises at all levels of planning and enhancing their responsibility for the results of their work will be conducted in the new year in a number of ministries in accordance with a party and government resolution.

The necessary measures must be taken in all sectors of the national economy to further develop and improve team forms of labor organization and socialist competition and to step up the creative activity of working people.

It is necessary to ensure the implementation everywhere of the CPSU Central Committee December Plenum instructions regarding the unconditional fulfillment and overfulfillment of plan targets by each labor collective in respect of increasing labor productivity, reducing the materials-intensiveness and prime cost of output, strengthening deliveries discipline, and thus increasing profits.

The practical implementation of the adopted decisions depends largely on the style and methods of the work of soviets, trade union, and economic organs and their skill in mobilizing labor collectives to implement the tasks set by the party.

But the work to strengthen labor and state discipline and raise exactingness toward cadres is still being not conducted at the appropriate level in all sectors of the national economy. There are still quite a few instances of economic mismanagement, squandering, and embezzlement of socialist property. Soviets of people's deputies and their executive and administrative organs must react more sharply and promptly to such phenomena, evaluate them from a principled position, and wage an implacable struggle to extirpate them.

Comrade deputies! The standing commissions of the chambers have examined the indicators of the 1984 USSR State Budget.

The budget has been drawn up fully in accordance with the targets of next year's State Plan for the Economic and Social Development of the USSR; its revenue amounts to R365.9 billion and has been determined on the basis of the tasks for comprehensively raising the intensification of social production, ensuring the fullest utilization of existing reserves in national economic sectors, and on this basis increasing monetary accumulations.

Budget expenditure is envisaged at a total of R365.7 billion and is channeled into financing national economic sectors, implementing social and cultural measures, and strengthening the country's defense capability.

The conclusions drawn by the standing commissions draw the attention of ministries, departments, and union republic Councils of Ministers to the need to step up and deepen all economic work, ensure the efficient and economical consumption of material and financial resources, and comprehensively mobilize all capacities for the maximum possible increase in state accumulations and revenue.

In the process of their work on the preliminary examination of the Plan for Economic and Social Development and the State Budget, the Plan and Budget Commissions and other standing commissions brought to light additional reserves and deem it necessary to make the following amendments to the plan and budget submitted by the USSR Government for discussion at this session. It is proposed to increase the 1984 plan for the production and sale of consumer goods by R159.2 million in retail price terms and to increase budget revenue by R137 million.

Taking into account the submissions made by union republic Councils of Ministers, it is proposed to increase expenditure on union republic budgets by R137 million and to channel these funds into the acquisition of stocks and equipment and capital repairs to general education school premises in the countryside, capital repairs for rural cultural and educational institutions, and the provision of medical equipment for dispensary and polyclinic establishments.

The Plan and Budget Commission and other standing commissions of the Soviet of the Union submit a proposal that the State Plan for the Economic and Social Development of the USSR for 1984 and the 1984 USSR State Budget as amended by the commissions be approved. It is also proposed that the report on the implementation of the State Budget in 1982 be approved in the amounts presented by the USSR Government.

Comrade deputies! Our people's thoughts are all directed toward the implementation of the 26th party congress' decisions. There is no doubt that our motherland's working people, closely rallied round the Leninist Communist Party, its Central Committee, and the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, will devote all their strength, knowledge, and experience to the successful implementation of plan targets for the fourth year of the current 5-year plan in the name of the further flourishing and strengthening of the economic and defense might of our great socialist fatherland. (applause)

Maslennikov Delivers 'Coreport'

PM021425 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 30 Dec 83 Morning Edition pp 4-5

[Coreport of the Budget and Planning Commissions and other standing commissions delivered during the 28 December afternoon session of the Soviet of Nationalities by Deputy N.I. Maslennikov, chairman of the Budget and Planning Commission]

[Text] Comrade deputies! Our country's working people, guided by the instructions of the CPSU Central Committee November (1982) and June (1983) Plenums, have raised the level of their organization and activeness in the struggle for the fulfillment of the decisions of the party's 26th congress. The Soviet people's selfless labor and the pacesetters' patriotic initiatives are strengthening the economic and defense might of the motherland.

Creative efforts and peace -- this is what most accurately characterizes the deeds and aspirations of our entire people today. The Soviet Union and the socialist community countries are firmly and consistently steering a course aimed at averting the threat of nuclear war and returning the world to the path of political and military detente. The principledness and immutability of this course have been reaffirmed particularly emphatically in the statements by Comrade Yu.V. Andropov, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

The Soviet people have received and approve with great enthusiasm the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee plenum held on the eve of the USSR Supreme Soviet session, and the propositions and conclusions relating to the 1984 draft Plan and Budget and to key economic tasks at the present stage, as set forth by Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov. They contain a realistic assessment of the state of affairs in the national economy and set out tasks aimed at speeding up the intensification of production, improving the utilization of the production and scientific and technical potential, improving the economic machinery, reinforcing discipline and order, and developing the cadres' initiative and enhancing their responsibility for the work assigned them.

These important political documents are vivid proof of the party's constant concern for further strengthening the economy of developed socialism -- the firm foundation for steadily improving our people's living standards.

In the current year, as a result of the implementation of practical measures elaborated by the party to raise the standard of management, strengthen state, plan, and labor discipline, and develop socialist competition on a broad scale, higher growth rates than during the first 2 years of the 5-year plan have been achieved in the economy and in enhancing the people's prosperity.

The efficiency of social production has increased, and the targets for increased labor productivity are being met. In industry the correlation between labor productivity and average wage growth rates has improved.

The country's national income by 1983 will increase by R14.5 billion, industrial production by almost R29 billion, and the volume of agricultural production by R.46 billion.

Positive results have been achieved in the development of livestock raising. Purchases of livestock, poultry, milk and eggs have increased. Farmers in the Belorussian SSR, Uzbek SSR, Azerbaijan SSR, Lithuanian SSR, Latvian SSR, Kirghiz SSR, Tajik SSR, Armenian SSR, Turkmen SSR, Estonian SSR, many RSFSR autonomous republics and oblasts, including all the oblasts and republics in the Nonchernozem Zone, and also a number of oblasts in the Ukraine and Kazakhstan have grown a good [neplokhoy] grain harvest and fulfilled the plans and pledges for grain sales to the state.

A large volume of construction work is being effected. In comparison with last year. 4.4 percent more fixed capital financed by state capital investments will be commissioned. Around 200 major new industrial enterprises and a considerable number of other important national economic projects will become operational. The Urengoy-Pomary-Uzhgorod gas pipeline went into service ahead of schedule, and the construction of the Baykal-Amur Railroad is proceeding successfully.

The social program is consistently being translated into reality. The population's real incomes, wages, and payments and benefits from social consumption funds have increased. Housing construction is proceeding on a large scale. In the current year housing with an overall floor area of 109 million square meters will be commissioned. This will ensure that the target for housing construction for the first 3 years of the 5-year plan is met and that almost 30 million Soviet people will have been able to improve their housing conditions over this period.

At the same time, when examining the progress achieved in the fulfillment of the 1983 State Plan, the chambers' standing commissions noted that a great number of enterprises and associations in several economic sectors have still not achieved a substantial improvement in their economic activity and have failed to overcome the shortage which had been allowed to build up in previous years in the implementation of the 5-year-plan targets.

Ministries, departments, and union republic Councils of Ministers must adopt effective measures to eliminate existing shortcomings in the work of enterprises and organizations under their jurisdiction, and to focus their efforts on the fullest possible utilization of reserves with the aim of ensuring the fulfillment and overfulfillment of plan targets by all the national economic sectors and each and every labor collective in 1984.

Effective influence to this end must be exercised by the soviets of people's deputies. Guided by the resolution of the CPSU Central Committee, USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and USSR Council of Ministers "On Further Enhancing the Role of Soviets of People's Deputies in Economic Building," many soviets are successfully exercising the rights and powers vested in them and are striving for the better utlization of manpower, material, and financial resources, the increased production of consumer goods, and the development of housing construction and the service sphere.

These questions, as is known, have not merely an economic but also a great political and social significance. They must occupy an important place in the activity of all local organs of state power.

Comrade deputies! The standing commissions of the Soviet of Nationalities, together with the commissions of the Soviet of the Union, have subjected the State Plan for the Economic and Social Development of the USSR and the USSR State Budget for 1984 to a preliminary examination, and they consider that the outlined rates and proportions correspond to the guidelines laid down by the party's 26th congress and the subsequent CPSU Central Committee plenums and aim at the all-around, stable development of the national economy, at strengthening the production potential, enhancing the people's prosperity, and boosting the country's defense capability.

The targets envisaged by the plan for further increasing social production and enhancing its efficiency are intensive but realistic. They are oriented toward a consolidation of the prevailing trend toward accelerated economic development and the creation of the conditions necessary to ensure the implementation of the tasks of the 11th 5-Year Plan.

In 1984 it is planned to increase the national income by 3.1 percent and industrial output by 3.8 percent. The consumer goods production growth rate is to outstrip that of the production of the means of production. Higher labor productivity will account for 90 percent of the increase in industrial output.

Agriculture and other sectors of the country's agroindustrial complex will be developed in accordance with the USSR Food Program. The volume of gross agricultural production will increase by 6.4 percent. The entire increase will be achieved by means of higher labor productivity. Considerable funds are being allocated to strengthen the material and technical base of kolkhozes, sovkhozes, and interfarm associations, and to carry out measures for the social restructuring of the countryside.

From all sources of finance the 1984 plan envisages capital investment for the development of the national economy totaling R149.6 billion, or 3.9 percent more than the expected level for 1983. State capital investments are to be increased by 5.2 percent. Retooling and modernization of existing enterprises will be carried out on a broader scale.

Economic growth and the economy's enhanced efficiency will ensure a further rise in the people's material and cultural standard of living. Per capita real incomes will increase by 3.5 percent, which is higher than envisaged by the 5-year plan for this year. Social consumption funds will increase by 3.7 percent. Housing construction will proceed on a large scale and its quality will be improved.

The 1984 plan provides for the comprehensive development of all union republics and economic regions, the deepening of specialization, and the expansion and strengthening of economic links among them.

As a result of a comprehensive analysis of the 1984 State Plan for the Economic and Social Development of the USSR the chambers' standing commissions explored the possibility and introduced the proposal to increase the volume of the production and sale of individual types of consumer goods to a total value of R159.2 million in retail prices, and to approve the state plan taking into account these amendments.

The USSR State Budget for 1984 has been drawn up in accordance with the State Plan for the Economic and Social Development of the USSR and provides funding for all the measures envisaged in the plan.

The union republic budgets have been determined proceeding from the premise of increased social production efficiency and improved qualitative indicators in the work of the economic sectors of each of the republics. They are incorporated in the USSR State Budget for 1984 and total R161.8 billion, which is R2.3 billion more than in 1983.

Taking into account the proposed amendments to the 1984 State Plan for the Economic and Social Development of the USSR, the commissions introduce the proposal to increase the budget revenue by R137 million.

In this context the union republic Councils of Ministers' proposals to increase funding for a number of measures have been examined. The commissions deemed it possible -- by means of additionally revealed revenue -- to increase budget expenditure for the acquisition of stock and equipment and the capital repair of general education school premises in rural areas by R52 million, for the capital repair of rural cultural enlightenment establishment premises by R40 million, and for the acquisition of medical equipment for out-patient polyclinics by R45 million.

It is proposed to distribute these allocations for the union republic budgets in the following amounts:

(figures given in thousands of rubles)

RSFSR	65,350
Ukrainian SSR	20,350
Belorussian SSR	5,430
Uzbek SSR	11,560
Kazakh SSR	11,550
Georgian SSR	2,840
Azerbaijan SSR	4,020
Lithuanian SSR	1,240
Moldavian SSR	2,840
Latvian SSR	1,230
Kirghiz SSR	3,180
Tajik SSR	3,310
Armenian SSR	1,300
Turkmen SSR	1,680
Estonian SSR	1,120

Taking into account the aforementioned amendments, it is proposed to approve the USSR State Budget for 1984 with revenue totaling R366,008 million and expenditure totaling R365,793 million, with revenue exceeding expenditure by R215 million.

The standing commissions have also examined the report on the implementation of the USSR State Budget for 1982. It is proposed to approve the report on the implementation of the USSR State Budget for 1982 with revenue totaling R353,032 million, and expenditure totaling R343,150 million, with revenue exceeding expenditure by R9,882 million.

Comrade deputies! In the course of the preliminary examination of the Plan and Budget for 1984 the chambers' standing commissions draw the attention of the USSR ministries and departments and the union republic Councils of Ministers to the need to more fully utilize intensive factors of economic development, tap available reserves, and achieve higher end results.

Today, when the party has urgently posed the task of radically enhancing labor productivity in the national economy on the basis of accelerated scientific and technical progress, specific measures ensuring the fulfillment of all targets set for the development and assimilation of progressive equipment and technology and the implementation of targeted comprehensive programs must be adopted in every sector of the economy. It is necessary to adopt measures to substantially improve the activity of scientific establishments, strengthen their experimental base, reinforce the link between science and production, and actively endeavor to enhance the fruitfulness of scientific research work and design and development projects.

Great tasks are facing the machine-building ministries, on whose efficient and well coordinated operation the practical application of the achievements of science and technology largely depends. The 1984 plan envisages an increase of 5.8 percent in the production of machine-building and metalworking output. At the same time the manufacture of many new types of machinery, equipment, and instruments for the retooling of production and the reduction of manual labor will have to be started up.

It is the commissions' view that the machine builders' leading role in speeding up scientific and technical progress obliges them to ensure the fuller satisfaction of the national economy's needs for modern types of machines and equipment in the light of the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee December (1983) Plenum.

Another major national economic task, namely the reduction of material expenditure in production, must also be solved on the basis of scientific and technical progress. However, as of yet not all ministries, departments, associations, and enterprises consider the saving of resources a very important precondition for enhancing work efficiency, and they do not ensure the fulfillment of set targets for lowering expenditure norms for raw and other materials and fuel and energy resources. It has happened in a number of cases that excessive metal expenditure norms have been approved for enterprises, and the commissions regard this as a direct manifestation of mismanagement. In 1983 there were cases of this kind in the Ministry of Machine Building for Animal Husbandry and Feed Production, Ministry of Tractor and Agricultural Machine Building, Ministry of Chemical and Petroleum Machine Building, and also in enterprises under the jurisdiction of the Belorussian SSR and Kazakh SSR Councils of Ministers.

An important reserve for savings in material resources is contained in the improvement of the structure of rolled metal production and the expansion of the output of its most economical types. A considerable amount of work has been done in this direction. In 1983 ferrous metallurgy enterprises increased the output of metal of the necessary range and quality, but nevertheless they still underproduced considerable volumes of the efficient types of products. Similar shortcomings also exist in nonferrous metallurgy. The USSR Ministry of Ferrous Metallurgy and the USSR Ministry of Nonferrous Metallurgy must strive to fundamentally improve the work and enhance the responsibility of their subordinate enterprises for increasing the output of progressive rolled metal sections.

One of the most important conditions for balancing the economy is to fulfill the targets for product deliveries in accordance with consumer orders and contracts.

At the same time a large number of enterprises under the Ministry of Heavy and Transport Machine Building, the USSR Ministry of Coal Industry, the Ministry of Chemical Industry, the Ministry of Electrical Equipment Industry, the USSR Ministry of Timber, Pulp and Paper, and Wood Processing Industry, and some other ministries fail to fulfill these plans.

The USSR ministries and departments must implement supplementary measures to strengthen delivery discipline and increase exactingness toward economic leaders for its observance. The main attention of labor collectives must be focused on the unconditional execution of consumer orders, both during the socialist competition and when assessing its results.

When examining questions of the Energy Program's implementation the commissions noted that the provision of energy for the national economy improved during the current year, although the opportunities existing there are being far from utilized. A number of associations and enterprises under the USSR Ministry of Power and Electrification, the Ministry of Petroleum Industry, the Ministry of Gas Industry, and the USSR Ministry of Coal Industry fail to fulfill the set targets for the production of the basic types of fuel and energy resources. High losses of electric power are permitted in the grids, as well as losses of fuel during extraction, transportation, and consumption; the level of utilization of casing-head petroleum gas is falling, and a large quantity of this gas continues to be flared off.

The leaders of the above ministries must take effective steps to activate the available reserves for an increase in the volume of electric power and fuel production, ensure the prompt commissioning of production projects under construction, and attain a substantial improvement in the qualitative indicators of the sectors' work.

The accelerated transfer of thermal power stations consuming considerable volumes of oil products to gas fuel, and also the further expansion of the utilization of natural gas in transport are of great importance for the national economy's stable energy supply. However, the pace at which this work is being carried out is still inadequate in a number of cases. As the deputies noted, the construction of the corresponding branch pipes for power stations, for example, is lagging greatly behind the plan targets, and the necessary development of a gas distribution network to populated points, especially in rural localities, is not being ensured. The USSR Gosplan, the Ministry of Gas Industry, the Ministry of Construction of Petroleum and Gas Industry Enterprises, the USSR Ministry of Power and Electrification, and the union republic Councils of Ministers must take effective measures to eliminate the aforementioned shortcomings.

The commissions also deem it essential that the USSR Gosplan and the USSR Ministry of Ferrous Metallurgy also examine the question of satisfying more fully the gasification process' needs for pipes.

The implementation of the Food Program is an important task in developing the country's economy. A great role in its successful implementation belongs to the new management organs, the agroindustrial associations, which are already actively involved in resolving the urgent questions of agricultural production and its related sectors.

As practice has shown, these associations' councils must persistently improve economic and intersectoral links and ensure more precise and coordinated actions along all enterprises and organizations belonging to the associations, and also the improvement of economic work on kolkhozes and sovkhozes and an increase in the return from the invested resources.

The USSR Ministry of Agriculture, the USSR Ministry of Fruit and Vegetable Farming, the USSR State Committee for the Supply of Production Equipment to Agriculture, the union republic Councils of Ministers, and the agroindustrial associations must pay more attention to questions of intensifying production and introducing industrial techniques in arable farming and stockraising and must implement specific measures on each kolkhoz, sovkhoz, and interfarm association to improve the utilization of machines and equipment, increase the quality of their repair and servicing, lengthen their service life, prevent violations in writing off equipment, and ensure the fullest possible return on all the production potential created in the countryside.

The obtaining of guaranteed harvests of agricultural crops is determined to a great extent by the development of reclamation and the level of use of reclaimed land. However, the planned yield has not been achieved on much of this land. Each year considerable areas of irrigated and drained land are not used as prescribed because of defects in the reclamation network, salinization, waterlogging, and other reasons.

The USSR Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources, the USSR Ministry of Agriculture, and agroindustrial associations must take measures to ensure high and stable yields on reclaimed land through the improved operation of water resources systems, a rational crop structure, and the efficient and thrifty use of water resources.

The commissions paid great attention to questions of producing consumer goods. It was noted that the level of their output and especially their quality still do not meet the population's growing demand. Questions of removing from production outmoded models and styles, on which, as a result, high-quality raw materials and semimanufactures are expanded, are being resolved only slowly. As a result these goods find no market. At enterprises of the USSR Ministry of the Coal Industry, for example, the stocks of finished output in storage increased 13 percent in the first 6 months of 1983.

USSR ministries and departments and the union republic Councils of Ministers are instructed to increase the output of high-quality goods, resolutely remove the necessary goods from production, and make efficient use of production capacities, raw materials, and semimanufactures. They must also persistently seek to ensure that each enterprise and association, regardless of specialization, take part in producing consumer goods.

Ministries, departments, and union republic Councils of Ministers are faced with improvement tasks in connection with the current elaboration of a comprehensive program for developing the production of consumer goods and the system of services for the population. At the same time, the commissions recommended -- without waiting for the program to be approved -- that measures be taken right now in this direction. In order to successfully resolve this task, ministries and departments need the all-around help of the USSR Gosplan and the USSR Gossnab.

Comrade deputies! During the discussion of the plan and budget questions of capital construction were examined attentively. The commissions seriously criticized a number of ministries and departments for their failure to meet plan targets for the construction of many installations, the low quality of construction work, overstated estimated costs of construction, and the insufficient introduction of progressive forms of labor organization.

Special attention was drawn to the failure to take proper measures in 1983 to reduce the dissipation of capital investments among numerous construction projects and installations.

For instance, the number of newly started construction projects in the Ministry of the Electrical Industry, the Ministry of the Chemical Industry, and certain others has increased. At the same time the aforementioned ministries have production capacities accepted back in 1982 which are still not producing anything, and also capacities whose utilization is considerably below the planned level. Such facts have been noted in other ministries too.

The commissions pointed out to client ministries and departments the need to elaborate effective measures to preclude dissipation of capital investments and ensure a reduction in the time taken to assimilate new installations and an improvement in the supply of material and technical resources to them.

The construction ministries are instructed to take effective measures to improve the quality of the installations built, to seek to eliminate the unprofitability of many of the construction organizations under their jurisdiction, and to increase cadres' responsibility for fulfilling the established plans for commissioning installations, especially those of a social, cultural, and consumer nature.

The USSR Gosstroy, together with interested ministries and departments, must improve the quality of design and planning documentation, ensure an improvement in production and labor organization and the broad introduction of financial autonomy teams, and resolutely struggle against distortions in construction.

During the preliminary examination of the plan and budget the commissions also comprehensively analyzed questions connected with further developing public education and culture, improving health care and social security, improving nature conservation, and making rational use of natural resources and elaborated corresponding proposals and recommendations, which are contained in the conclusions issued to you.

Comrade deputies! In summing up the results of the work carried out by the standing commissions, I would like to stress that, in order to successfully resolve the tasks of the coming year, soviet and economic organs must strengthen plan and executive discipline, intensify the attention paid to questions of improving economic work, tighten control over the fulfillment of the set production targets, ensure the overfulfillment of the plan for increased labor productivity and reduced output prime cost of output, and work more actively to eliminate losses of material resources and the wasteful utilization of the people's wealth.

The plan and budget for the coming year are marked by crucial new targets in implementing the tasks of the 11th 5-Year Plan. Their achievement requires a high degree of organization and harmonious work on the part of labor collectives and an increase in initiative and responsibility in each sector of production and throughout the management sphere. This is what the party and the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee December Plenum orient us toward today. (applause)

Baybakov Concluding Speech

PM030922 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 30 Dec 83 Morning Edition p 5

[Concluding speech delivered by Deputy N.K. Baybakov, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the USSR Gosplan, at the 29 December joint session of the USSR Supreme Soviet]

[Text] Comrade deputies! The USSR Supreme Soviet Soviet of Nationalities and Soviet of the Union have concluded a detailed and comprehensive discussion of the State Plan for the Economic and Social Development of the USSR for 1984.

The CPSU Central Committee December (1983) Plenum decisions and the assessments and conclusions contained in the plenum speech of Comrade Yu.V. Andropov, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, found unanimous approval in the deputies' speeches.

The deputies pointed out in their speeches that the resolution of urgent current and long-term tasks must be made the basis of the activity of all soviet and economic organs, public organizations, and labor collectives aimed at successfully fulfilling and overfulfilling the 1984 plan targets and, above all, in raising labor productivity and lowering production prime costs.

During the examination of the plan in the Plan and Budget Commissions and other stading commissions and during its discussion at the sessions of both chambers of the USSR Supreme Soviet a number of important proposals were made to make fuller use of internal production reserves, to increase the production of individual types of output, particularly consumer goods, to accelerate scientific and technical progress and the retooling of enterprises, and to improve material and technical supplies.

Questions of the further development of the material and technical base of agriculture, land reclamation, and the comprehensive development of cotton growing were also raised.

The deputies posed a number of questions of a social nature and, above all, on the expansion of housing and cultural-consumer construction, on allocating and finding jobs for cadres, on water supplies, and other questions.

Critical and fair remarks were addressed to ministries, departments, and, in particular, the USSR Gosplan.

As you know, for the purpose of making more efficient use of the production capacities that have been created the CPSU Central Committee December (1983) plenum tasked the USSR Gosplan, USSR ministries and departments, and union republic Councils of Ministers with elaborating special measures to eliminate intersector and intrasector disproportions and bottlenecks and with clearly defining ways and means to implement them.

Model order and organization in production and an active struggle to strengthen state, plan, and labor discipline must play a significant role in realizing these measures.

The plan for 1984 received full approval in the conclusion and the coreports of the Plan and Budget Commissions and other standing commissions and in the deputies' speeches.

In examining the plan for 1984 the Plan and Budget Commissions and the other standing commissions of the USSR Supreme Soviet chambers submitted a proposal to increase production and sales of individual consumer goods to a total value of R159.2 million at retail prices. On behalf of the USSR Council of Ministers allow me to report that these proposals have been examined and adopted. The appropriate amendments will be made to the State Plan for 1984.

Allow me also to report that all the proposals and remarks made by deputies at the current session will be carefully considered and appropriate decisions will be adopted on them. Deputies and the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium will be informed of the results of the examination.

Comrade deputies! Allow me to express the confidence that the Soviet people, united around the Communist Party, will continue to strengthen our country's economic and defense might and will ensure successful onward progress along the path of communist building. (applause)

Garbuzov Concluding Speech

PM030951 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 30 Dec 83 Morning Edition p 5

[Concluding speech delivered by Deputy V.F. Garbuzov, USSR minister of finance, at the 29 December joint session of the USSR Supreme Soviet]

[Text] Comrade deputies! The USSR State Budget for 1984 has been given detailed and comprehensive examination by the Budget and Planning Commissions and other standing commissions of the Soviet of the Union and the Soviet of Nationalities and been unanimously approved by all the USSR Supreme Soviet deputies who addressed the session.

The discussion showed that the budget for the fourth year of the 5-year plan fully accords with the party's political and economic strategy and provides finance for all the measures planned for that year to ensure the further dynamic development and improved efficiency of social production, to enhance the people's well-being, and to maintain the country's defense capability at the proper level.

The Budget and Planning Commissions and the other standing commissions submitted proposals to increase the budget's revenue by R137 million. This includes an increase of R91.9 million turnover tax and R45.1 million from payments out of the profits of state enterprises and economic organizations.

Taking into account applications from the union republic Councils of Ministers, it is proposed to channel these additional resources into the acquisition of implements and equipment and the capital repair of general educational school buildings in rural localities to the tune of R52 million, into the capital repair of rural cultural and enlightenment establishment buildings to the tune of R40 million, and into equipping outpatient and polyclinic establishments with medical equipment to the tune of R45 million.

I have been entrusted with reporting that the USSR Council of Ministers deems it advisable to adopt the proposed amendments to individual items of income and expenditure in the USSR State Budget for 1984.

The USSR Ministry of Finance will carefully examine all the questions raised by deputies during the discussion of the budget at the present USSR Supreme Soviet session and will inform the USSR Council of Ministers of the results. Deputies will be informed in good time of the measures taken.

Comrade deputies! The year that is coming to an end has been marked for the entire Soviet people by selfless creative labor. Thanks to the consistent implementation, in accordance with the CPSU Central Committee November (1982) Plenum guidelines, of the party's policy of improving socialist management and enhancing organization and discipline and the businesslike efficiency and responsibility of cadres, appreciable positive progress has been made in all spheres of the economy, science, and culture.

Great new and responsible tasks are being advanced for 1984. They are oriented to a greater degree than before toward improving social production efficiency. Their social thrust is being strengthened.

The CPSU Central Committee December (1983) Plenum pointed out that it is important to maintain the pace that has been achieved and the general mood for the practical resolution of tasks, to steadily raise the standard of party and state leadership of the economy, more actively develop the positive trends toward the growth of efficiency, and impart a stable nature to them.

The Central Committee plenum decisions draw the attention of party, soviet, economic, trade union, and Komsomol organs to the need to persistently seek out additional reserves and to strive for above-plan labor productivity growth, lower prime production costs, and increased profits. The party attaches paramount significance to intensifying the policy of thrift in the national economy.

It is possible to voice the firm confidence that Soviet people, closely rallied around their dear Communist Party, will widely develop socialist competition for the fulfillment and overfulfillment of the plan and budget and will mark 1984 with splendid new achievements and labor victories for the good of our great motherland. (applause)

ZHUKOV ON SESSION'S FOREIGN POLICY DECISION

LD302309 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1600 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Text] Georgiy Aleksandrovich Zhukov, USSR Supreme Soviet deputy and chairman of the Soviet Committee for the Defense of Peace, is taking part in our newscast today. He gave an interview to our correspondent during the time the USSR Supreme Soviet was in session.

[Begin Zhukov recording] During these days, none of us at the session has forgotten for a single moment the complex international situation in which we have to implement our peaceful plans. Indeed, we are proceeding -- and I stress this -- on the basis of a peaceful outlook, inasmuch as we must enter the 21st century under conditions of peace. But, as you know, the imperialists are not pausing, but on the contrary are stepping up the nuclear arms race more and more. They are implementing a policy of state terrorism and carrying our aggressive actions in Central America, the Near East and everywhere that U.S. military bases are scattered and everywhere that they are defending their so-called national interests, although aggression has nothing to do with national interests.

It was in consideration of all this that deputies proposed that the session examine the question of the international situation and the Soviet state's foreign policy and adopt a corresponding decision. Carrying out the will of the deputies, the Foreign Affairs Commission examined a draft document for the session, which is entitled "A Decision of the Supreme Soviet on The International Situation and on the Soviet State's Foreign Policy." The document is of enormous political significance. In it we have vigorously supported the statement by Comrade Andropov which set forth the Soviet leadership's measures of response to aggressive actions by the United States and first and foremost, to its deployment of new nuclear missiles in Western Europe. It contains a solemn declaration by the USSR Supreme Soviet, which expresses the will of the entire Soviet people, to preserve peace, not to give in to any provocations, and to defend the cause of peace. Secondly, and what is very important the document contains an appeal to the U.S. Congress and to the parliaments of the NATO member countries to halt the nuclear arms race.

We stand on the threshold of the New Year and we want very much for the year 1984 to be just as peaceful as all the years since the end of the Second World War.

There will, of course, be difficulties in the struggle to preserve peace, but we are supported by the will of the peoples. If I say we, I mean we deputies of the Supreme Soviet. We have the support of the Soviet people, support which was unanimously expressed at the 800,000-strong Moscow demonstration, the 400,000-strong Leningrad demonstration, the 200,000-strong Minsk demonstration. These demonstrations expressed the firm will of our people to preserve peace and to consolidate the security of our country.

Retaliatory measures are being carried out by the Soviet state. It is clear that it was not with a light heart that we adopted the decision on retaliatory measures. These measures are forced ones, and, as Comrade Andropov said in his statement, if the Western countries -- the United States and its NATO allies -- return to the situation that existed prior to the deployment of the nuclear missiles, the Soviet Union will also do so; this is stated in our decision which we adopted today. The way will thereby be opened for a resumption of the talks in Geneva. But they must be constructive talks on limiting nuclear armaments. We would like this to happen in the new year. [end recording]

GOVERNMENT NEW YEAR MESSAGE TO SOVIET PEOPLE

PM031001 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 1 Jan 84 First Edition p 1

[Unattributed report: "New Year Congratulations to the Soviet people"]

[Text] Dear comrades and friends! The year 1983 is passing into history. It will occupy a worthy place in the annals of the glorious achievements of the Soviet people. Our country has made marked progress in all areas of economic and cultural construction. The rate of growth in public sector production has speeded up. Labor productivity has increased. Social tasks are being steadily resolved. In their implementation of the Food Program the emeployees of the agroindustrial complex have produced more arable farming and livestock output than in the previous year. Hundreds of new enterprises have been brought into operation. The natural riches of Siberia and the far east are being developed on a broad front. The construction of the Baykal-Amur railway is nearing completion. The gigantic Urengoy-Pomary-Uzhgorod gas pipeline has been built ahead of schedule. Soviet scientists have gladdened us with major discoveries. Remarkable victories have been scored in the exploration of space. Our multinational culture has been enriched with significant new works of literature and the arts.

All this is the result of the strenuous, fruitful work of Soviet people and the consistent implementation of the party's course toward more effective use of the opportunities and advantages of developed socialism, toward the strengthening of discipline and the level of organization in all spheres of society's life. The CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and the USSR Council of Ministers express heartfelt gratitude to all those who are working wholeheartedly for the common good, who are multiplying the material and spiritual wealth of the socialist homeland.

The successes that have been achieved during the past year are indisputable, but ahead of us lies the task of reaching still higher targets and tackling more actively the large-scale tasks defined by the 26th party congress and subsequent plenums of the CPSU Central Committee. The other day the CPSU Central Committee plenum approved the USSR State Plan for Economic and Social Development during the fourth year of the 5-year lan. At its latest session the Supreme Soviet discussed and endorsed this plan. The plan accords with the party's general line and is in the fundamental interests of the people. The CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and the USSR Council of Ministers are confident that the country's working people will mount nationwide socialist competition for its successful fulfillment and overfulfillment and mark 1984 with shock and highly productive work.

The Communist Party and the Soviet state have no concern higher than that of the well-being of the people. If the Soviet people are to have an increasingly better life and are to satisfy their material and spiritual requirements more fully, there is but one path to be followed -- conscientious work in all areas of socialist creation, by the machine tool, in the factory, in the mine, on transport, in the grain fields, in the scientific laboratory and on the construction site. The country is approaching the elections to the USSR Supreme Soviet.

This important political event in the life of our society will undoubtedly be further evidence of the flourishing of socialist democracy, a demonstration of the inviolable unity of the party and the people, this monolithic cohesion around the Leninist CPSU Central Committee and the Central Committee Politburo headed by Comrade Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov.

Comrades! The old year has unfortunately not brought a slackening of international tension. Through the fault of imperialism, the situation in the world has become complicated. The U.S. Administration, following a militarist, adventurist course, has unleashed a nuclear missile arms race unprecedented in scale and has embarked on a path of crude interference in the internal affairs of other states and open aggression against a number of countries. Under these conditions, the Soviet Union and the countries of the socialist community are taking all the measures necessary to prevent nuclear war and preserve peace for the present and future generations. The international situation requires from Soviet people extreme vigilance, staunchness, good organization and selfless labor aimed at strengthening the country's economic might and defense potential. We shall not give up the security of our homeland or of our allies and friends.

While celebrating the New Year we send warm greetings to the peoples of the fraternal countries of socialism and friendly states, and to the working people of the entire world. We send our new year greetings to all people of goodwill and call upon peace-loving forces of the planet to close their ranks even further in the struggle against the sinister plans of imperialism.

Dear comrades and friends! A joyous holiday is coming to our homes. The Soviet people are marking its with optimism, full of bright hopes and confident of their future. We send warm greetings on the coming New Year to the heroic working class, the kolkhoz peasantry and the Soviet intelligentsia. Best wishes to veterans of the party, war and labor -- tried and tested fighters for the cause of communism who are passing on to the younger generations their ideological convictions, enormous experience of life, their staunchness and strength of spirit. Cordial greetings to our wonderful women and glorious young people. Militant new year greetings to the valorous Soviet servicemen -- the reliable defenders of the socialist fatherland. We greet those who this night are at their labor and military service posts and who are working far from the homeland. We wish all Soviet people strong health and great successes in their work, studies, and creative activity. Happy new year, comrades, and may it bring you fresh happiness.

[Signed] The CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, the USSR Council of Ministers

KOBYSH VIEWS STATE OF AFFAIRS AT YEAR'S END

LD302155 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1400 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Vitaliy Kobysh report from the Vremya newscast]

[Text] Good day, comrades. We are saying farewell to 1983 at a time when we have been profoundly impressed by the recently ended CPSU Central Committee plenum and the speech of Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov. This important political document speaks profoundly, realistically, and truthfully about all the things which concern us. The other speeches at the plenum and during the work of the USSR Supreme Soviet session and the documents adopted also focused on improving the socialist management of the economy, raising the level of organization and strengthening state, labor, and plan discipline.

It is right to say that at the moment not everything in our country is as we would like it to be. Nevertheless, much is changing for the better before our eyes. People have begun to work with more enthusiasm. The rate of economic growth has increased. Indicators of quality have improved somewhat. Positive progress has been clearly seen in the national economy. The party line of raising the standard of living of Soviet people -- and this is the main sociopolitical objective of all our plans -- is being implemented. All this is important, and not just for us. I am not exaggerating at all when I say that the entire world is attentively following the fulfillment of our plans.

As it happens, the leaders in Washington are very attentively following the state of affairs in the national economy of the USSR. Naturally, they have their own reasons for this and their own interests in this. Let's be frank. They would like very much to wreck our plans, to exhaust the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries by the arms race, by ruinous military expenditure, and to make our peoples fearful of the future and nervous. None of this has succeeded, nor will it succeed. And it seems as though Washington itself is beginning to realize this. There they can see that we are maintaining our defense capability at a proper level, that we are fulfilling economic plans, and that the living standards of the people are increasing in our country. The hopes about fear for the future and the nervousness of our people were altogether vain ones. They were not serious ones.

Yes, the situation in the world is tense. But this is precisely why we must assess the state of affairs very accurately, taking all factors into account. Much, very much depends on how we fulfill our plans. They used to say in England that the outcome of the Battle of Waterloo was decided on the cricket fields of Eton. By this they meant that during the game of cricket at fashionable Eton College, the masters of the British Empire decided the destinies of the world. It is doubtful whether everything was decided there. But one thing that can definitely be said is that the outcome of the great battle for peace and for life without nuclear war is today being decided to a considerable extent at our plants, on kolkhoz fields, and in the laboratories, institutes, and schools.

CENTRAL COMMITTEE PLENUM MATERIALS PUBLISHED

LD302133 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1400 GMT 30 Dec 83

[From the Vremya newscast]

[Text] Political Literature Publishing House has published for mass circulation the materials of the CPSU Central Committee Plenum held on 26 and 27 December in Moscow. The book includes the official report on the plenum, the text of the speech by Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and the plenum's decision on the drafts of the State Plan for Economic and Social Development and the country's State Budget for 1984.

ARMENIAN SSR MARKS ANNIVERSARY OF SOVIET RULE

GF021820 Yerevan SOVETAKAN AYASTAN in Armenian 30 Nov 83 p 1

[Excerpts] The republic's workers are marking in great political and labor spirit the bright day of the Armenian people's rebirth, the 63d anniversary of the establishment of Soviet rule in Armenia.

On 29 November a session was held in A. Spandaryan Opera and Ballet State Academy Theatre dedicated to the glorious anniversary.

In the presidium were Comrades K.S. Demirchyan, G.N. Andreyev, K.G. Gambaryan, L.N. Nersesyan, G.M. Voskanyan, S.M. Petrosyan, M.B. Arzumanyan, G.A. Matirosyan, M.G. Muradyan, M.A. Yuzbashyan, and L.G. Saakyan. It was attended G.M. Bagdasaryan, chairman of the Armenian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium; A. M. Kirakosyan, first deputy chairman of the Armenian SSR Council of Ministers; Yu.Ye Khozhamiryan, F.G. Petrosyan, G.S. Sagoyan, deputy chairman of the Armenian SSR Council of Ministers; A.O. Topuzyan, first secretary of Armenian Trade Unions Central Committee; party, soviet officials, veterans of the Great Patriotic War, and prominent scientific and cultural workers.

The session was opened by L.N. Nersesyan, first secretary of the Yerevan city party committee.

Yu.Ye. Khodzhamiryan, deputy chairman of the Armenian SSR Council of Ministers, spoke on the 63d anniversary of Soviet Armenia.

Today, he said, we are ceremoniously marking the anniversary of a greater and more significant event in the history of the Armenian people. Sixty-three years have passed since that historic day when the working people of Armenia, inspired by the Great October victory, declared Soviet rule.

The fulfillment of the tasks decided by the 26th CPSU congress for the 11th 5-Year Plan period -- said Yu. Khodzhamiryan -- was for Armenia as well as for all the union republics a new phase on the path of fulfilling the long-term plan for the dimensional development of economy. The basic tasks designed by the 27th Armenian Communist Party Congress, which are a basic part of the development of the country's national economy complex, are aimed at elevating the productivity of national production and the undeviating growth of the population's welfare.

During the mentioned phase, one of the basic problems before the national economy is the implementation of the main direction of regional economic policy, that is, the growth of the low-energy and material-consuming branches, and improvement of the distribution of production powers. Great attention is being paid to the elevation of the productivity of national output, industrialization of agriculture and development of agroindustrial complex, acceleration of scientific and technical progress, improvement of the population's living conditions, and solution of the environment protection issues. The first 3-year results of the current 5-year plan period show that the republic is successfully fulfilling the targets projected by the 5-year plan. From 1981 to 1983 over 3-million-rubles worth of fixed capital was commissioned. The majority of the plan targets are being overfulfilled. The volume of industrial output increased by 16.4 percent against the projected 16 percent. Machine production continues to develop rapidly.

Today's Armenia is a bright example of the implementation of the CPSU Leninist national policy; of what kind of notable successes can be achieved in the development of economy, science and culture and the elevation of people's welfare in such a short historic period under the leadership of the Communist Party under the new public system conditions.

The session was declared closed. The state anthems of the Soviet Union and Armenian SSR were then played.

DEMIRCHYAN ADDRESSES ARMENIAN CP PLENUM

GF021746 Yerevan KOMMUNIST in Russian 21 Dec 83 p 1

[Excerpts] A regular plenum of the Armenian Communist Party Central Committee was held on 20 December 1983. The plenum heard a report by Comrade G.S. Sagoyan, deputy chairman of the Armenian SSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the Armenian SSR State Planning Committee on the 1984 Armenian SSR State Plan for Economic and Social Development and the progress in fulfilling the 1983 Armenian SSR State Plan for Economic and Social Development and another report on the 1984 Armenian SSR State Budget and on the fulfillment of the 1982 Armenian SSR State Budget presented by Armenian SSR Finance Minister Comrade Dzh. A. Dzhanoyan.

The plenum also discussed a question on the results of the accounting-electoral meetings in the primary party organizations and the rayon and city party conferences and the measures for fulfilling the critical remarks and proposals suggested to communists.

Comrade G.M. Voskanyan, secretary of the Armenian Communist Party Central Committee, presented report. Comrade N.P. Stepanyan, second secretary of the Yerevan Gorkom; Comrade R.S. Gonyan, first secretary of Kafan Raykom of the Armenian Communist Party; Comrade E.T. Arutyunyan, secretary of the (Electropribor) Production Association; Comrade Kh.A. Drampyan, Turkmen SSR minister of motor transport; and Comrade B.M. M'krtchyan, editor of the newspaper KOMMUNIST, presented reports.

The plenum passed corresponding resolutions on the questions discussed. Comrade K.S. Demirchyan, first secretary of the Armenian Communist Party Central Committee, delivered an important speech at the plenum.

The Armenian Communist Party Central Committee Plenum reviewed organizational questions. The plenum elected Comrade Yu. V. Shatalin as member of the Armenian Communist Party Central Committee Bureau. The plenum relieved Comrade L.S. Shustko of his commitments as member of the Armenian Communist Party Central Committee Bureau. The plenum elected Comrade M.K. Arutyunyan and Comrade A.O. Topuzyan as candidate members of the Armenian Communist Party Central Committee Bureau.

The plenum approved the appointment of Comrade L.G. Saakyan as chairman of the Organizational Party Work Department of the Armenian Communist Party Central Committee and the appointment of Comrade L.S. Akopyan as chairman of the Trade and Food Services Department of the Armenian Communist Party Central Committee. With this the plenum of the Armenian Communist Party Central Committee concluded its work.

NEW AZERBAIJAN MINISTERIAL APPOINTMENTS NOTED

WA281600 [Editorial Report] Baku BAKINSKIY RABOCHIY in Russian on 2 December carries on page 1 a 50-word ukase of the Azerbaijan SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium announcing the appointment of E.M. Kafarova to the post of Azerbaijan SSR minister of foreign affairs, vacating the position of minister of Education. The same paper on 3 December carries an ukase of the Azerbaijan SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium announcing that K.N. Ragimov will be the new Azerbaijan SSR minister of education.

ODESSA SATELLITE STATION BEGINS OPERATION

LD310924 Moscow TASS in English 1206 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Text] Odessa December 30 TASS -- An international satellite communication station, built near the Soviet Black Sea port of Odessa, has been launched into operation. Today specialists of the ground facility, designed to maintain two-way communication with ship at sea, established contact with subscribers -- vessels carrying satellite communication equipment.

The Odessa station is integrated into an international system, Inmarsat, that is being set up by thirty countries with a view to using space in the interest of security of navigation. 15 such stations will be set up in various parts of the globe. The second facility of this kind in the USSR is being built in the port of Nakhodka, Far East, to service the Pacific Ocean.

At present, sea vessels use shortwave frequencies in conditions of high atmospherics, this prompting transition to space communication with the possibility of using more reliable decimetre and centimetre waves. Atmospheric disturbance is totally eliminated.

The station can simultaneously receive and transmit information from all ships sailing in the Indian and Atlantic Oceans.

CHEMISTS, BIOLOGISTS DISCUSS ECONOMIC ROLE

PM231027 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 22 Dec 83 First Edition p 2

[TASS report: "In the Main Salients"]

[Text] The contribution of scientists to increasing social production efficiency and their participation in transferring the country's economy onto the path of intensive development were the subject of a general meeting of the USSR Academy of Sciences (general and technical chemistry and biology section). It was held in Moscow on 21 December.

In his introductory speech Academician Yu.A. Ovchinnikov, vice president of the USSR Academy of Sciences, stressed that Soviet chemists and biologists have achieved considerable successes in fundamental and applied research, and in many avenues have taken leading positions in the world. They make a substantial contribution to the implementation of the Food and Energy Programs and the elaboration of problems of importance to the national economy.

At the same time, it was noted at the meeting, the tasks set for science at the CPSU Central Committee June (1983) Plenum and in the CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers resolution "On Measures To Speed Up Scientific and Technical Progress in the National Economy" orient Soviet scientists toward more active participation in the nationwide campaign for efficiency.

The participants in the USSR Academy of Sciences general meeting noted with concern that through the fault of Western imperialist circles the international situation has sharply deteriorated. The speeches by Academician A.P. Aleksandrov, president of the USSR Academy of Sciences, Academician N.N. Blokhin, and others stressed the increased role of Soviet scientists in these conditions in strengthening the country's economic and defense might and averting the danger of thermonuclear catastrophe.

ARMED FORCES PARTY CONFERENCES REPORTED

PM022029 [Editorial Report] Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian in its 24 December Second Edition publishes on page 2, under the rubric "Party Conferences" and under the general heading "From the Standpoint of Increased Demands," four reports prefaced with the following editorial introduction:

"The activity of political organs and party organizations in fulfilling the decisions of the 26th party congress and the CPSU Central Committee November (1982) and June (1983) Plenums is being comprehensively analyzed at party conferences of military districts, groups of forces, and fleets. Key problems of enhancing combat readiness and improving ideological and mass political work are at the center of the delegates' attention. There is exacting discussion of the style and methods of party leadership, the responsibility of cadres, and ways to resolve in practice the tasks of enhancing combat readiness and vigilance and strengthening discipline which stem from the analysis of the present military-political situation made in Comrade Yu.V. Andropov's statement in connection with the deployment of American medium-range missiles in West Europe."

The report on the party conference in the Northern Group of Forces states that the conference was addressed by Lieutenant General N. Lushnichenko, chief of the group Political Directorate; Colonel General Yu. Zarudin, commander of the group; and Army General A. Gribkov, chief of staff of the Warsaw Pact Joint Armed Forces; and was attended by "A. Soshnikov, deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee Administrative Organs Department."

The party conference in the Southern Group of Forces was addressed by Colonel General K. Kochketov, commander of the group; Lieutenant General N. Shevkun, chief of the group Political Directorate; and Colonel General M. Sobolev, deputy chief of the Soviet Army and Navy Main Political Directorate.

The Volga Military District party conference was addressed by Lieutenant General G. Gromov, chief of the district Political Directorate, and Colonel General M. Popkov, chief of the Ground Forces Political Directorate. The Baltic Fleet's conference was addressed by Admiral I. Kapitanets, commander of the fleet; Vice Admiral I. Alikov, chief of the fleet Political Directorate; and Admiral P. Medvedev, chief of the Navy Political Directorate.